



# THE INDEPENDENT

Friday 14 November 1997

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## Ready to go: America is on the brink of attacking Iraq again



Ready for action: a member of the ground crew rushes to his post as an American warplane lands on the USS Nimitz in the northern Gulf

Photograph: AP

Iraq and the United States looked set for renewed armed conflict after a day of high drama in New York, Washington and Baghdad. The Iraqis announced the expulsion of American weapons inspectors; the UN said it will leave Iraq. Our US correspondent weighs the choices on all sides.

The stand-off accelerated with a speed that few had anticipated, including Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary General. Yesterday morning, only hours after the United Nations Security Council had passed a unanimous resolution approving further sanctions on Iraq, Baghdad in back. The six US weapons inspectors in Iraq were given six

and a half hours to leave the country. They were told to leave for Jordan by land, a hard overnight journey.

An expulsion order had been hanging over the American members of UN inspection teams since 29 October, when Baghdad first ordered their departure - an order that was suspended while diplomatic procedures were underway.

In Washington, President Clinton called the National Security Council into immediate session. He emerged, grave, to describe the expulsions as "clearly unacceptable" and a "challenge to the international community". He added: "It is important to the safety of the world that they [the inspectors] continue their work. I intend to pursue the matter in a very determined way."

Within the hour, Richard Butler, the chairman of Unscm, the commission overseeing the disarming of Iraq,

announced the withdrawal of all Unscm staff in Iraq. A small team of about nine people will be left to maintain facilities. Asked whether the UN offices, equipment and documents were secure, Mr Butler said bluntly: "Yes." But he stressed that "every day lost makes the circumstances worse" in terms of

send, except the Americans." Iraq's view is that American members of the UN teams, and the American-piloted U2 spy planes that are used for UN surveillance missions over Iraq, are being used not only for UN purposes, but in America's own national interests. Mr Aziz has continually made reference to

whipping up of national sentiment, the mass demonstrations and the mustering of "volunteers" at the presidential palace, all suggest that Iraq has decided that it has nothing to lose by standing firm. Baghdad wants a foreseeable end to sanctions.

The United Nations has a dilemma. It must stand by the principle that no country can determine the composition of UN teams, and no country should defy UN resolutions. But with several Security Council members, including Russia, China and France, reluctant to impose further sanctions, it is hard to see that it would approve the use of force to ensure compliance, so long as Iraq does not resort to force itself.

This pushes the burden of decision on to President Clinton. He has a cause: US inspectors are being expelled. He also has the capacity: the US has sufficient hardware in the region to launch an immediate

military strike on Iraq, and a national consensus: a weekend poll showed more than 60 per cent would support the use of righteous indignation, compared with 24 per cent who would oppose it.

The problem for Mr Clinton is, what then? The US believes the UN has the authority for a military strike under previous Security Council resolutions, but this is not a view universally shared. Even by asking for a new resolution on military action, the US could break the fragile unity of the Security Council; but if it strikes unilaterally, international opprobrium will be turned away from Iraq and on to the US.

If Mr Clinton does nothing, he appears weak. On past performance the possibility of Saddam Hussein backing down looks remote. In which case, Mr Clinton may reason that a military strike should be sooner rather than later.

BY MARY DEJEVSKY

Iraq's unmonitored military potential.

The Iraqi deputy prime minister, Tariq Aziz, who has been trying to argue his country's case at the UN this week, blew hot and cold, but maintained the position he has presented consistently: "Iraq is ready to continue its cooperation with Unscm. Unscm could perform fully its duties, with any other personnel the chairman decides to

an unannounced inspection at an installation he said was for the security of President Saddam Hussein, and so, in his view, a matter of national security and sovereignty.

The consistency of Tariq Aziz's position, the defiant words of other Iraqi officials who say they are "not scared" of further sanctions or a military strike, and the overt preparations for war in Baghdad - the

The existence of a £15m Tory fund-raiser was denied by William Hague's office last night. With sleaze charges high on the agenda at Westminster, Anthony Bevis, Political Editor, reports on the mystery of the Australian 'swagman'.

The leader of the Conservative Party has submitted the name of Ronald J Walker, a prominent Melbourne businessman, to the Prime Minister for a knighthood. The Independent has been told. Authoritative sources have revealed that Mr Walker served as the Tories' overseas treasurer before the last election, and that he delivered foreign funds to the tune of at least £15m for John Major's 1997 election campaign. A spokesman for Mr Hague's office yesterday insisted that Mr Walker had not been a Tory overseas treasurer, "with-in living memory". But Mr Walker's name appears as one

of a number of honorary party treasurers on letter heading of the "Conservative and Unionist Central Office Treasurers' Department", used last year. The Independent has been told Mr Walker's name was submitted to Mr Blair for a knighthood, along with that of Bernie Ecclestone, the Formula One motor racing chief who remains at the centre of a row over contributions to the Labour Party.

Following advice given to Labour by Sir Patrick Neill QC, the new chairman of the official Committee on Standards in Public Life, Labour is being forced to return a £1m donation from Mr Ecclestone, because of a ministerial decision to exempt Formula One from a ban on tobacco sponsorship in sport.

But The Independent has been authoritatively informed that Mr Ecclestone gave about £10m to the Conservatives, along with a loan of £4m, and those gifts are certain now to become a focus of attention for the Neill inquiry into party funding. It is not known whether some of the Ecclestone donations were raised by Mr Walk-

er, but it was Mr Walker who negotiated the multi-million pound deal under which Mr Ecclestone agreed, in December 1993, to switch the Australian Grand Prix from Adelaide to Melbourne from this year.

The political significance of the allegations linking Mr Walker, the Tory party, overseas funding, Mr Hague and Mr Ecclestone will not be lost on a beleaguered Labour leadership.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, yesterday wrote to Mr Hague to ask "Are press reports accurate that Bernie Ecclestone made donations and loans to the Conservative Party, and in which case, what were the amounts and dates?" He also asked: "How much money have you received from abroad to fund election campaigns?"

Mr Hague replied last night: "Your attempt to divert attention away from the Government's decision to treat Formula One in a completely different way from other national sports ... is pathetic."

He also told the Home Secretary: "Before the summer, I instructed our party treasurers

that ... we will not accept foreign donations."

Mr Hague said in July: "We will publish new guidance later this year, and our intention is that in future years the Conservative Party will no longer accept foreign donations." His spokesman was unable to say last night when foreign donations would be stopped - although the Government is to make them illegal from next year.

It was disclosed yesterday that Sir Patrick had been asked by Tom Sawyer, Labour general secretary, to rule on the acceptability of a further, post-election donation from Mr Ecclestone.

The Prime Minister raised the issue in yesterday's Cabinet, during which a number of ministers said it was "ridiculous" that business donations should be questioned in this way - when all Government decisions regularly affected business in general and in particular. The No 10 spokesman said: "We get it in the neck for taking money, we get it in the neck for giving it back, and now we're getting it in the neck for not taking money."

Tobacco row, page 5

### INSIDE TODAY

**CHRIS EVANS/3**  
Boozer, big-mouth, great face for radio... and now a tycoon?

**WHAT'S ON?**  
Film, music and reviews. 28 page weekend guide. In today's Eye

**GIRL POWER/19**  
Suzanne Moore thinks the lad-bashing ads are a very good thing.



**HAIRLESS?/16**  
Tough, go-ahead women are going bald. (Oh no, they're not.)



WEATHER The Eye, page 26  
TELEVISION The Eye, page 28  
CROSSWORDS Page 28 and the Eye, page 25

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### TODAY'S NEWS

#### Bankers spill the beans

The Independent eavesdropped yesterday on a confidential global video conference held for a Swiss bank's directors in London, New York and Hong Kong to discuss their acquisition of BZW's investment banking activities from Barclays Bank. The directors of Credit Suisse First Boston could hardly suppress their glee at bagging the British business for what the City viewed as a knock-down price of £100m. They discussed mass sackings and why they didn't buy BZW's business in Japan - because it was "a loser". Page 20

#### Breast cancer risk

A woman's risk of undergoing a mastectomy for breast cancer, ranges from zero to 80 per cent, depending on the surgeon treating her, according to a new study. It adds to existing fears about the variable quality of breast cancer screening in Britain. Page 9

#### SEEN & HEARD

In his time he has been wrongly accused of murder, kidnapped, and almost assassinated by Bill Clinton's cadillac. Now he has decided to retire from the front-line. Humphrey the Downing Street cat is leaving politics and moving to the country. It was rumoured that the venerable feline had fallen out with Cherie Blair although both strenuously denied it and agreed to pose for photographs. In fact the ageing mouser has been suffering from a kidney complaint and has been advised to take things easy. Downing Street insisted he will be sorely missed and welcome to visit at any time.

## The mystery swagman who raised £15m for Tory party

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Tobacco row, page 5

*Bière Blonde Finement Brassée en France*

**"33" EXPORT**

**LA PETITE BIÈRE BLONDE CÉLÈBRE**



## COLUMN ONE

### Things ain't so dandy for this tough old cowboy

The kids of today. Having goaded the once liberal Jack Straw into raging about child curfews and juvenile tagging, they have now driven poor old Desperate Dan into retirement.

After 60 years of appearing in every edition of the *Dandy* comic, he has been dropped because he is no longer "relevant" in the world of the modern youngster.

DC Thomson, the comic's publishers, admitted yesterday that the decision would perturb many parents who had grown up with Dan's tales of Cow Pies and Owl Hoot Juice and regarded him as a figure synonymous with a contented childhood.

But Agnes Wilson, of the DC Thomson's editorial management team, said: "We know the character is relevant to parents but we don't know

how relevant he is to today's children." She added: "From time to time everybody reappraises the content of their magazines and comics. We wondered whether it was time to give him a rest."

The comic's editor, Morris Heggie, was yesterday sticking to the official *Dandy* line that Dan had gone happily of his own accord. "Dan was doing a hungee jump and struck an oil well with his mighty chin when the elastic broke," he said. "From his yacht, somewhere in the Bahamas, he has informed me that he is no longer desperate. So I'm looking for someone to fill his boots."

Desperate Dan - "The roughest, toughest cowboy in the West" - first appeared in the *Dandy* in the launch issue of 4 December 1937. He was inspired by celluloid cowboy heroes like Tom Mix, who were popular in the Thirties and who were also models for other cartoon figures like Buck Jones and Kit Carson who have preceded Dan into the sunset.

Dan's demise follows that of Korky the Cat, who recently lost his ever-present record in *Dandy* to be reduced to the status of a "now and again character". A similar fate has befallen Lord Snooty, once a regular of the sister comic *Beano*, which has also driven Big Eggo, the cartoon ostrich which once graced its cover, into extinction. The *Dandy* and the *Beano* both still sell in the region of 300,000 copies per issue, although that is a far cry from the million plus sales of the Fifties and Sixties.

DC Thomson is expecting some of these readers to mount a protest when Dan's departure becomes apparent with deliveries of the next issue. "We are waiting to see what reaction we get," said a company source.

Which might lead cynics to think that this whole affair is not unrelated to the recent publication of a new Christmas book, *The Legend of Desperate Dan*, which chronicles 60 years of the cowpoke's adventures.

Maybe this time the kids are not to blame after all. As a public relations company yesterday spread the news that Dan had gone, it seemed that even Cactusville, Texas, where Dan used to live with his Auntie Aggie, had succumbed to the world of hype.

— Ian Burrell



60 YEARS OF CLASSIC CARTOON ART

## PEOPLE



### All's well that ends well for Wanamaker's vision

Sam Wanamaker, the man who brought us Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, was awarded a posthumous recognition of his vision last night.

The film director, who fought to rebuild the theatre for many frustrating years but who died in 1993 before his dream was fulfilled, was named the 1997 Ambassador for London.

Lord Renwick, chairman of the judging panel, said: "Sam Wanamaker receives our recognition for his extraordinary vision, leadership, energy and determination in realising his dream of recreating Shakespeare's Globe Theatre for the benefit of all Londoners and for countless visitors, artists and scholars in the future."

Sam Wanamaker visited London in the Forties, expecting to find a monument to the world's greatest playwright. Instead he found only a plaque commemorating the location of the Globe Theatre and vowed one day to remedy the lack of a memorial.

Thirty years later he set up a trust and began to raise funds. By 1995 more than £12m had been raised. This was matched by the same amount from the National Lottery and the Globe was secure.

Collecting the award on behalf of Wanamaker, artistic director Mark Rylance said: "Taking London as his family's adoptive home during the Fifties, Sam always loved London, and, with education at the heart of the Globe, Sam's vision encompassed young people and visitors of all ages, as well as the recreation of the theatre itself."

"We are all very thrilled that you have honoured Sam with a fitting title - Ambassador for London - and hope this will encourage the assistance we still need to fulfil all Sam's dreams for the project."

The theatre attracts thousands of visitors a week and the accompanying Globe Exhibition was last year named best attraction in Europe.

— Amanda Kelly

### 'Absolute bravery', said the Queen to Lisa Potts

Lisa Potts, the nursery nurse who saved children at a picnic from a man wielding a machete by shielding them with her own body, met the Queen yesterday - to be told: "Yours was absolute bravery."

The Queen praised the former nursery teacher's courage when she presented her with the George Medal, second only to the George Cross as the highest award a civilian can win for bravery, in a ceremony at Buckingham Palace.

Ms Potts, 22, said after the ceremony: "This award is totally gobsmacking, it leaves me speechless."

"I thought I was going to cry at one point before I went on, be-



cause of the music, the atmosphere, everything."

The Queen had asked her how the children she saved had fared - some were left badly scarred by

the attack by Horrett Campbell, 33, who is being held in a secure mental hospital for an unlimited period. Ms Potts said some of the children still had scars as a result of the attack last year at St Luke's Infant School, Wolverhampton.

"[The Queen] asked me how I was and how I was feeling. She said, 'Yours was absolutely bravery'. I said 'thank you very much, your Majesty, but it was purely instinctive'. She smiled and shook my hand," Ms Potts added.

The medal is the 17th award she has received in recognition of her bravery in protecting the children from Campbell.

### Roger Cook pulls plug on show

Roger Cook, that doyen of foot-in-the-door reporters, has decided to pull the plug on *The Cook Report* after 12 years on ITV.

The investigative journalist, whose confrontational style meant him getting attacked by many of his targets, has decided to pull out because ITV's half-hour shows are not long enough to fit in a full story and because he is fed up with

being bashed around. Cook was on a stakeout yesterday, but his agent said: "Roger has really taken a battering over the last 10 years."

Steve Clark, Carlton Television controller of programmes, said: "He has been doing this job for 25 years now. In that time there is not one part of his body that hasn't been injured."

— Paul McCann

## UPDATE

### SOCIETY

#### More women seek Shelter

Record numbers of women are seeking help because of homelessness and poor housing, according to the charity Shelter.

The organisation said that more than 36,000 women - around a third of all clients - approached its network of advice centres during 1996-97. While the majority (21,414) were homeless, a further 10,000 had problems such as mortgage and rent arrears, and 5 per cent needed advice about accommodation problems such as domestic violence and landlord harassment.

"These figures explode the myth that homelessness is just a male problem," said Louise Casey, Shelter's deputy director. "Instead, they paint a disturbing picture of women whose lives are blighted by housing problems."

"Some of the most tragic cases we deal with are those involving women who flee a violent partner only to face the trauma of homelessness. This very vulnerable group are still not given priority for housing by many local authorities and all too often miss out on the safety and support they desperately need." The charity is calling for improved central and local government policies which reflect the diverse housing needs of women.

— Glenda Cooper, Social Affairs Correspondent

### SEX

#### Disease warning for the young



One in ten sexually active young people could be carrying a sexually transmitted infection, according to new research from Brook Advisory Centres.

Costing the NHS an estimated £874m a year, STIs are most prevalent amongst the under-25s. Brook warns that although most people know about the dangers of HIV/Aids, few are aware of more common infections such as chlamydia, gonorrhoea and genital warts. Most STIs can easily be diagnosed and treated with antibiotics, but, left untreated, some infections can result in infertility, ectopic pregnancy and cervical cancer.

"The message we're hearing from young people is that they don't receive enough relevant information about infections," said Margaret Brook, the charity's chief executive. Yesterday, Brook launched a teaching pack entitled *Infection Protection* for schools.

● *Infection Protection*: £24.95 from Brook Publications, 165 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8UD

— Glenda Cooper

### HEALTH

#### Diabetes costs NHS £4,000 a minute

Treating diabetes costs the National Health Service more than £4,000 a minute, according to figures released today.

But the bill could be reduced with better education about the condition and early diagnosis, the British Diabetic Association (BDA) said. Treatment for the condition accounts for £2.1bn of the annual NHS budget and diabetes is the single biggest cause of blindness in people of working age in the UK. The news comes on World Diabetes Day and coincides with the launch of NHS guidelines on how to educate the public and sufferers about the condition. More than 1.4 million people in Britain have diabetes and the BDA estimates there may be another million undiagnosed.

### TOURIST RATES

Australia (dollars)	2.37	Italy (lira)	2,801
Austria (schillings)	20.04	Japan (yen)	210.95
Belgium (francs)	58.92	Malta (lira)	0.63
Canada (\$)	2.33	Netherlands (guilders)	3.21
Cyprus (pounds)	0.83	Norway (kroner)	11.73
Denmark (kroner)	10.91	Portugal (escudos)	289.33
France (francs)	9.54	Spain (pesetas)	240.02
Germany (marks)	2.86	Sweden (kroner)	12.51
Greece (drachmei)	451.03	Switzerland (francs)	2.33
Hong Kong (\$)	12.75	Turkey (lira)	301,902
Ireland (punts)	1.09	United States (\$)	1.66

Source: Thomson Cook  
Rates for indication purposes only

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**BBC**

### 7.30 FOR 8

by Chris Priestley

SO WHAT DID YOU WRITE ABOUT THIS WEEK, TAMSIN?

WELL, LET ME SEE I DID A PIECE ON HOW EMPOWERING SILICON IMPLANTS ARE... THEN I DID SOMETHING CALLED 'ARE INTELLIGENT WOMEN A TURN-OFF?' AND THEN YESTERDAY, 'IS PORNOGRAPHY DEGRADING AFTER ALL?'

IT'S ALL VERY GIRL POWER... ALL VERY NEW LASS.

SOMETIMES IT'S LIKE FEMINISM STRUCK JUST A GLANCING BLOW TO THE TESTICLES OF HISTORY

LOOK, JEREMY... I DON'T WANT YOU TO GET A TATTOO... BUT I SHOULD TELL YOU THAT I HAVE ONE.

GET OUT.

NOPE, IT'S TRUE.

WHEN YOU WERE IN THE PEACE CORPS? IN YOUR OLD HIPPIE DAYS? WHERE DID THIS HAPPEN??

OH, RIGHT ABOUT HERE

MAYBE IT'S BETTER THAT I NOT KNOW SOME THINGS, DAD?

by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



## Paul Daniel: How to save the ENO

[illegible]



## Voting in Commons may go electronic

Electronic voting in the Commons could become a reality, the Leader of the Commons, Ann Taylor, told MPs last night. She said the Modernisation Committee was looking into the "feasibility and desirability" of electronic voting, but that it was likely MPs would not be able to use the system if they were outside the chamber or the division lobbies.

Mrs Taylor, opening a debate on the modernisation of the House, said the Government had managed to start reforming Commons procedures, but more work was needed.

The Shadow Leader of the Commons, Gillian Shephard, said the Tories welcomed the general thrust of what the committee was trying to achieve, but stressed that change had to be evolutionary.

Mrs Taylor said: "Once we have spent some time as members here, it's very obvious that there are debates that are not as fruitful and productive and enlightening as they might be."

She added that the Government had already started bringing in draft Bills which could be discussed before formally presented to the House.

Mrs Taylor said some MPs were especially concerned about congestion in the voting lobbies. The Modernisation Committee would be taking evidence on the advantages of electronic voting, but she stressed there had been no decision on whether to introduce it for a trial period yet.

"Any voting should actually take place either in this chamber or in the lobbies... rather than have some form of remote voting introduced."

As well as examining the "feasibility and desirability" of electronic voting, Mrs Taylor said the committee was looking into the schedule of the parliamentary year, week and day.

She said: "It is impossible to please everyone but what we are trying to do is to devise a system that will allow all 659 members to undertake their jobs in their individual ways that they think is most appropriate to their constituents."

Mrs Shephard said the Opposition had supported the work of the Modernisation Committee but stressed that the Conservatives supported change only if the sovereignty of Parliament was retained.

Earlier in the Commons, during questions about the business of the House, Labour's Harry Barnes (Derbyshire NE) had called for electronic voting.

He said as a "little bald-headed, 60-year-old man, who wears glasses and has false teeth and whose trousers do not match his jacket", he might seem an "unlikely moderniser". But a "modern, technologically up-to-date electoral system" was needed.

Mr Barnes, who has long campaigned for electoral reform, yesterday brought forward a Bill to amend the Representation of the People Act to make it easier for the homeless to be included on electoral registers.

Mrs Shephard urged Mrs Taylor to look in the future at the work of select committees, applauding their successes, but warning: "I don't think they should be asked to respond instantly to the political flavour of the moment."

But Mrs Taylor told her that although they could eventually be considered, select committees were "not an immediate priority, not least because I think that most people think they work quite well".



John Major, Baroness Thatcher, Lord Callaghan of Cardiff and Tony Blair (left to right) were among the prime ministers past and present who attended the memorial service of Lord Tony Pandy, the former Speaker, at Westminster Abbey yesterday. Photographs: Peter Macdiarmid

## Harman plans work-ethic route to welfare reform

The Government's "big issue" is social exclusion, the Social Security Secretary said yesterday. Glenda Cooper, Social Affairs Correspondent, looks at Harriet Harman's plans to combat a divided nation.

Harriet Harman yesterday ruled out higher benefits as a way of tackling unemployment saying that the welfare state would be "reformed around the work ethic".

"We want to make the mainstream economy - with its opportunities and its risks - the main path out of exclusion for all people of working age," she

told an audience at the launch of the Centre for Analysis for Social Exclusion, an independent unit at the London School of Economics.

The centre was opened as the Government sets up its own social exclusion unit in the Cabinet Office. Ms Harman said that the two events were "enabling the academic world and the Government to come together to confront what is the big issue of this administration".

"Work is the only route to sustained financial independence, but it is also much more," she said. "Work is not just about earning a living. It is a way of life... [We will] ensure that work pays wherever possible by implementing a national minimum wage and reforming the tax and benefit systems."

Saying the Government wanted to rebuild an "one-nation" society, she defined the socially excluded as those deprived of work, education, material goods, transport, health-care and financial services.

The ESRC centre will use newly available national survey data to follow people from year to year to investigate how their incomes change and look at issues such as the long-term effects of changing family patterns. It will also track the fortunes of particular areas to explore why some people improve and why some are locked in deprivation. "It is crucial that we understand how the areas in which people live affect their lives and life chances," said Dr Anne Power who will co-ordinate the research.

## Hezza to lead pro-hunt MPs

Michael Heseltine will lead the Commons assault on the Bill to ban fox hunting. The former deputy prime minister and dedicated bird watcher has told country sports supporters that he will be taking a leading role in speaking against the Bill on its second reading on 28 November. John Gummer, the former agriculture minister, is also ready to wade into the debate on the side of country sports.

"Hezza has said he will lead the debate with Gummer falling in behind. They are the grandees," said one pro-fox-hunting Tory MP. Mr Heseltine's intervention is certain to raise the pitch of the debate, which is already stirring up passions ahead of the second reading.

Mr Heseltine has been keeping a low profile since his intervention to defend the euro from the Euro-sceptics in the

Tory party. He joined the pro-hunt rally in Hyde Park in July, attended by an estimated 100,000 hunt supporters.

Downing Street has refused to give the Bill time to reach the statute book if it is ambushed, as expected, in the Lords, and the Bill's sponsor, Labour MP Mike Foster, has not been told whether or not Tony Blair will be in the Commons to vote.

— Colin Brown

# Dixons

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# 5/SMOKING ROW

## Health department protests at Formula One pressure

Senior Whitehall sources have protested to *The Independent* that Formula One lobbied through the Prime Minister's office to block a ban on tobacco sponsorship of the sport. Anthony Bevins reports on another twist in the affair.

The official version of events leading up to the Government's decision to rescue Formula One suggests that it was taken in a normal series of exchanges between Ministers. But high-level sources within the De-

partment of Health have protested that, throughout, Formula One cast its influence over the entire process - exerting its influence through No 10 and the Prime Minister's office.

While Tony Blair himself would not have got involved in the detailed negotiations, members of his staff - who might well have been aware of the £1m donation made to the Labour Party by Formula One's Bernie Ecclestone - were putting pressure on the Department of Health to break the manifesto pledge for a ban on tobacco advertising.

That was bitterly resented from within

the Department, by officials who had suffered years of tobacco lobby pressure from Margaret Thatcher.

The official chronology of Labour negotiations begins with a memorandum sent by Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, to the Prime Minister on 29 May, just four weeks after Labour had taken office.

That memorandum sought Mr Blair's agreement to the negotiating position the Government was going to strike over a draft European directive on tobacco advertising.

The directive had been opposed by the

Conservative Government, but at a meeting with EU colleagues on 5 June, Tessa Jowell, Minister for Public Health, offered British support, qualified by any impact the directive might have on sports sponsorship.

By June, however, senior sources in the Department of Health had become acutely conscious that the Prime Minister's office might have been "nobbled".

None of the senior people in the Department of Health knew at that stage that Mr Ecclestone had made his donation to the Labour Party, in January, or that he was offering further cash to the party in talks over the summer.

By the time that Mr Dobson sent Mr Blair another memorandum on 17 July, setting out the negotiating options for the European directive, including the possibility of an exemption for Formula One, as well as a complete ban on tobacco sponsorship for all sport, it was felt that the die had been cast - and the U-turn had already become embedded in the policy line being pressed by No 10.

According to the Prime Minister's office the first meeting between Ministers and Max Mosley, head of the FIA, the sport's governing body, took place on 23 September, and there was a follow-up

meeting between Mr Ecclestone and Mr Blair on 16 October.

The Prime Minister's office said yesterday that while Mr Blair would have been aware that Labour fund-raisers had been engaged in discussions with Mr Ecclestone, talking about the possibility of a further donation, there would have been no mention of it in those talks. Given the high-level lobbying exercise that had been applied to No 10 since the election, no one needed to have mentioned anything so crude as money or donations - that would have been taken as read.

Letters, page 18

## F1 fans more likely to start the habit

The Cancer Research Campaign says many young boys who watch motor racing instantly recognise the names of cigarette brands such as Marlboro and Camel. Ian Burrell says this brings further pressure on the Government to reverse its exemption of Formula One from a ban on tobacco sponsorship.

Publishing CRC's research today, the *Lancet*, the influential medical journal, will run an accompanying editorial which denounces the handling of the sponsorship issue by health ministers.

"In the days of a Conservative government both [Frank Dobson and Tessa Jowell] might have demanded resignations in circumstances such as this," says the journal.

"A research team from Manchester University found that over 27 per cent of boys aged 12 and 13 who watched motor racing could recognise the name Marlboro, compared to less than 17 per cent of those who did not like the sport.

Similarly, 10 per cent of

those who followed motor racing were familiar with the name Camel, double the figure for those without an interest in Formula One.

The researchers also found that the boys who liked motor racing were more than twice as likely as the other boys to become regular smokers.

Professor Gordon McVie, director general of the Cancer Research Campaign, said: "These children are being subjected to subliminal imagery, the continual flashing of an image in their faces. It is not just the car itself that they are watching but the branding on the side of the vehicle and at various points around the track." Researchers at the university's Education and Child Studies Research Group were commissioned by the CRC to interview more than 1,000 boys aged 12 and 13 in the north and south of England.

They were asked which sports they liked to watch television and whether they smoked. The same questions were then posed again a year later. The researchers found that of those non-smoking boys who named motor racing as their favourite sport, 12.8 per cent had taken up cigarettes by the following year, compared to seven per cent of boys who did not like motor racing.



Outspoken: Ron Walker with Formula One champion Michael Schumacher. Mr Walker hit the headlines when he described Schumacher as 'an overpaid, good-looking prima donna' Photograph: Simon O'Dwyer

## Fixer on the inside track

Ron Walker is in many ways the ideal man to tread softly through the delicate world of international political fund-raising where discretion is the key, and donors often do not want their generosity publicised.

The millionaire entrepreneur from Melbourne, who has made his fortune out of property development, is the federal treasurer of the Australia's Liberal Party. He has, say his colleagues, the ability to move smoothly between the world of politics and big business.

He and Andrew Robb, the Federal Director of the Liberals, came over to Britain during the run-up to the last election to try and help John Major's campaign. Mr Walker's company, Hudson Conway, has an office in West London. Yesterday his whereabouts were surrounded in mystery. A receptionist claimed he was "away for the afternoon". But later a colleague said he was in fact in Australia. He refused to comment on the allegations that Mr Walker had raised millions for the Tories, and had been offered a knighthood in return.

## Labour risks wrecking agreement on sports sponsorship ban

The European Commission is making a fresh attempt to get Britain to climb down over its refusal to back a ban on sports sponsorship by tobacco firms unless Formula One is excluded. Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent, says Labour MPs are furious with the Government's stand.

The Government will be warned in a letter by the European Commissioner, Pdraig Flynn, this weekend that its demands to exclude Formula One motor racing could wreck attempts to reach agreement on a European directive to ban sports sponsorship by tobacco companies.

Mr Flynn will table compromise proposals at a meeting of officials on Monday in an attempt to reach a breakthrough.

He is writing to Tessa Jowell, the public health minister, urging her to reverse Britain's position before a council of health ministers in Brussels on 4 December.

Labour MPs were furious when Ms Jowell told a back-bench meeting at the Commons that a deal may not be reached on 4 December, and could be put off until April next year, when Britain would hold the presidency. MPs said she told them: "It could be 4 December, it could be April, it could be never."

Roy Hattersley, who has accepted a Labour peerage, last night said the "fiasco" over Labour taking £1m from Bernie Ecclestone, the Formula One chief, was symptomatic of Tony Blair's attempts to find new friends in forging a consensus for the Labour government.

Calling for a clearer vision from Mr Blair in support of traditional Labour values, Mr Hattersley said in a Hansard Society lecture: "The Government would have avoided even the transient embarrassment had it been guided by a clear and consistent view of who its friends

are and whose interests it most wanted to serve."

Mr Flynn's office said he was "dismayed" at receiving a letter last week from Ms Jowell announcing the British decision to demand the exclusion of Formula One from the European ban. "It came as a bombshell," a spokeswoman for Mr Flynn said.

Mr Flynn will press the Government to offer a compromise which could delay the introduction of a ban on sports sponsorship by tobacco companies. A delay of three years had been offered for most sports, but he is prepared to extend it. Officials will be meeting in Brussels on Monday to discuss a compromise formula before the ministers' meeting.

Britain is still formally sticking to its demand for a total exclusion of motor racing, but privately Whitehall sources said Ms Jowell was under orders to accept a 10-year delay as a fall-back position. That may be too long to satisfy Britain's European Union partners, said Mr Flynn's office.

Ash, the anti-smoking campaign group, is also appalled by Britain's position. Ash said the voluntary code had been shown as inadequate by breaches by motor racing teams at this year's British Grand Prix at Silverstone in July.

The code is supposed strictly to limit tobacco advertising at Grand Prix events. Ash complained to Comatas, the committee for monitoring agreements on tobacco advertising and sponsorship, that in one case the Marlboro red and white chevron was clearly visible on the Ferrari car, in another, the word "racing" was in exactly the same style of lettering as used to denote the Rothmans cigarette brand.

Comatas said the teams had been using these symbols for a number of years, but had agreed to change them for next season. However, it rejected two further complaints by Ash. In one it had said the Jordans car was advertising Benson & Hedges, and in the other it claimed the Williams car was advertising Rothmans.

## Clay pigeon shooting dreams in ruins

After 70 years in existence, the British Clay Pigeon Shooting Association last year clinched its first sponsorship deal... with Imperial Tobacco. Ian Burrell hears that next July's Embassy World Clay Pigeon Shooting Championship is a sitting duck for new legislation on tobacco sponsorship.

Britain might have eight world champions at clay pigeon shooting but to the nation's broadcasters the sport, like real-life pigeons, is seen as something rather messy and unattractive that they would rather not touch.

So desperate for publicity were the sport's bosses that earlier this year they actually paid a private television company to make a film which was given to Sky for transmission on one of its minor channels.

The film would not have been possible at all if it had not been for a deal last year with Imperial Tobacco - which has pledged more than £100,000 over the next five years to keep the sport alive.

The arrangement means that Embassy cigarettes now give their name to the British and World championships, which are due to take place next summer in west London. But now the event and the very future of competitive clay pigeon shooting itself is under threat from government plans to sweep tobacco sponsorship out of British sport.

Clay pigeon shooting began in the 1890s and has grown to half a million participants in Britain alone. Among the most famous is Jackie Stewart, the former world motor racing champion.

Emilio Orduna, director of the BCPSA, said the sport was run "totally and utterly" on a shoestring. He said that government reassurances that sports would be able to find other sponsors outside the tobacco

industry were not welcome. "I am afraid the CPSA has been running for 70 years and we have always been looking for a sponsor. It is not as simple as it sounds," he said.

When last year the CPSA finally clinched its dream deal, it thought it had guaranteed the future of its headquarters in Corby, Northamptonshire, and its nine-strong staff. Mr Orduna said that the IT money had enabled the association to plan a world championships worthy of the name.

Paul Sadler, for Imperial Tobacco, said the company had withdrawn from Formula One - where John Player Special was a famous sponsorship name - in the early 1980s, and had switched to "grass-roots" British-based sports, such as angling, darts and clay pigeon shooting.

"They tend to attract the sort of people who might smoke our products," he said. "We are looking to get our brand name known among existing adult smokers."

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# 7/MILLENNIUM

## The third lottery giveaway – £220m to build the future

The Millennium Commission yesterday announced its third and final phase before winding down next spring. *Nonie Niesewand, Architecture Correspondent,* reports that it is giving away £220m of Lottery money to 71 projects nation-wide that will open in 2000.

The Commission has already committed funds for 185 projects, at present in design stages or under construction – or as officials call it “sod cutting and dredging”.

So the struggling act had to spread money evenly across the board. Not too many earth centres, youth centres, bridges or bell towers. Some drinking fountains and village halls. No lighthouses, amusement arcades or theme parks.

It also has to balance the different regions with a good spread so that million-pound signs representing lottery handouts pinned on a map of Britain wouldn't all fall like raindrops on the weather chart over, say the North-east.

The steel mill at Rotherham gets £18.6m for a leisure centre focusing on British Industry; Hull gets an aquarium and an ocean centre. Northern Ireland has done well this time round with four schemes: a community centre in Londonderry and Ulster, a town quay in Fermanagh and a linen experience at Moygasbel, which is “right and proper since the projects will help in bringing together the community,” Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, said.

Wales comes in second. East Midlands finished worst off because officials there did not submit much. But then the Midlands Rolls-Royce Trent Engine, with titanium fan light enough to get 36 more passengers aboard every jet, is heading the Millennium Products Collection as well as the export tables. North Berwick has a Scottish seabird centre and there are two science projects in Glasgow and Dundee.

Bridging was the unspoken agenda, as in bridging loans as well as linking different regions. Representing that optimistic scene were two foot bridges symbolising all

that is innovative about British ingenuity and engineering. Chris Wilkinson's bridge across the Tyne can be raised like the visor on a motorbike helmet, while Sir Norman Foster is working with Anthony Caro and Ove Arup on the Millennium Bridge linking St Paul's Cathedral to the new Tate Gallery at Bankside.

The rest fall neatly into five categories: Science and technology, the re-generation of cities, support for local communities, environmental sustainability and education, not to be confused with schools since a popular misunderstanding is that the Millennium Commission can fill in for taxes to bolster schools and hospitals and anything else that needs government funding.

It cannot. Lottery money has to be spent on projects that improve the quality of life for citizens in 2000. Mr Smith, who is also the Commission chairman, points out that “these projects represent the aspirations of the public. They represent a very positive statement about Britain.”

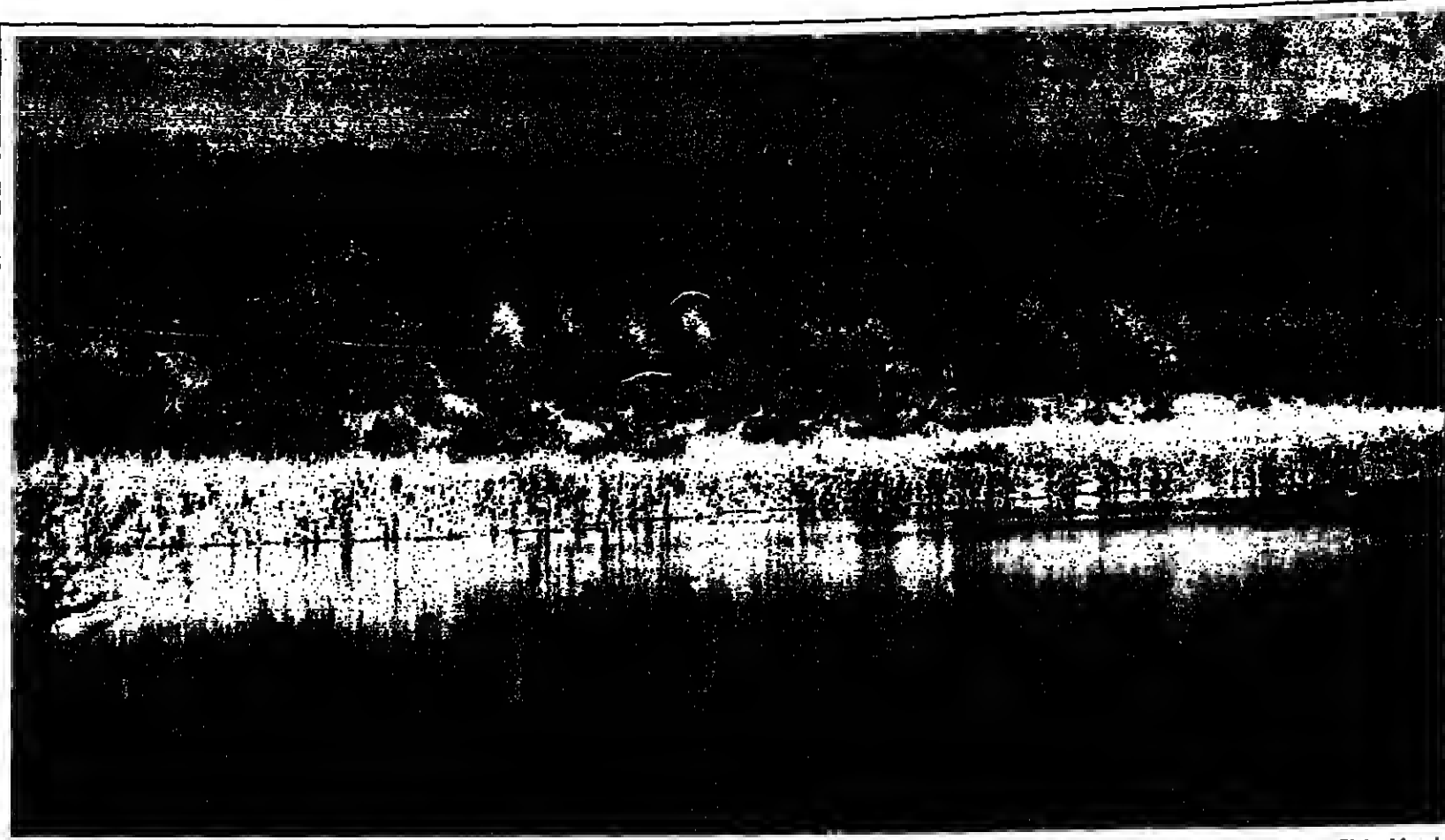
Science and technology (a favourite) have the National Science Centre on site in Glasgow in association with one in Dundee. The bridges and three public squares in Coventry, Leeds and York will help to revitalise the city centres.

Support for local communities is centred around 36 grants to local village and community halls. Environmental sustainability is the buzz word with the house of the future illustrating renewable energy designed by Richard Rogers partnerships and DCA at Wandsworth in south London.

Education has Everyman's library sending a million books to 4,500 schools in the country with CD-ROMs and the Welsh Centre in Cardiff as well as cultural events in Londonderry.

Two and a half years ago the Millennium Commission was established as an independent body under the National Lottery Act 1993, one of five causes that shared 28p of every pound spent on the National Lottery. Today it represents the largest non-government funding investment in the United Kingdom social infrastructure.

Imaginative and constructive projects have to benefit people throughout the UK, they also have to meet a deadline, the year 2000. That is why this is the final phase though there is some money in the pot.



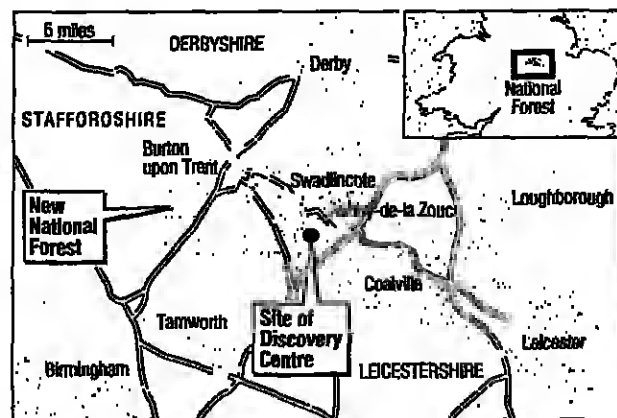
Money grows on trees: Part of the forest land near Ashby-de-la-Zouch that is to be helped with lottery funding

Photograph: Philip Meech

## Nation's green heart to heal the scars of industrial past

A huge forest in the Midlands is to get a heart, with a £13m Discovery Centre, country park and other attractions helped by lottery money.

*Environment Correspondent Nicholas Schoon* examines one of the largest derelict land reclamation projects in Britain.



Unnoticed and largely unknown, a vast forest the size of a county is starting to take shape in countryside scarred by mining and quarrying north of Birmingham. At the moment it consists of hundreds of thousands of saplings.

Yesterday this ambitious but unrecognised project got its best chance to date to acquire an identity, with the announcement that £6.2m of lottery money from the Millennium Commission would be injected into its heart.

It was one of 71 schemes receiving £221m in the final round of grants from the commission, all of them due to be completed and open to the public by the end of 2000. Northern Ireland received more money per person than other region of the UK.

The money will go towards a forest park eventually covering 500 acres of derelict land, landscaped into the shape of a giantic handprint, and a new National Forest Discovery Centre. There visitors will see virtually reality displays – computer generated, three-dimensional illusions showing what the mature forest will look like in 20 years time. They will learn about the ecology and history of woodlands in Britain and the world, and how their timber and other products can be sustainably exploited.

Plans for the forest were first announced by Conservative Government more than eight years ago. Its designated area, covering nearly 200 square miles, sprawls across parts of Staffordshire, Derbyshire and Leicestershire.

The landscape has been ripped open by clay and gravel extraction and opencast coal mining. The local economy has also been hit hard by the closure of all of its deep mines, and this has contributed to the widespread dereliction of the landscape. The new country park and discovery centre will be sited on the remains of Rawdon Colliery, the last of Leicestershire's mines to close.

The project is backed by English Partnerships, the Government's land regeneration arm, the Forestry Commission, the Rural Development Commission and local councils. With yesterday's announcement, all but £1m of the total £13m needed has now been identified, with the rest to be raised by appeal.

## The Dome will be fantastic – but don't ask me how, says Heseltine

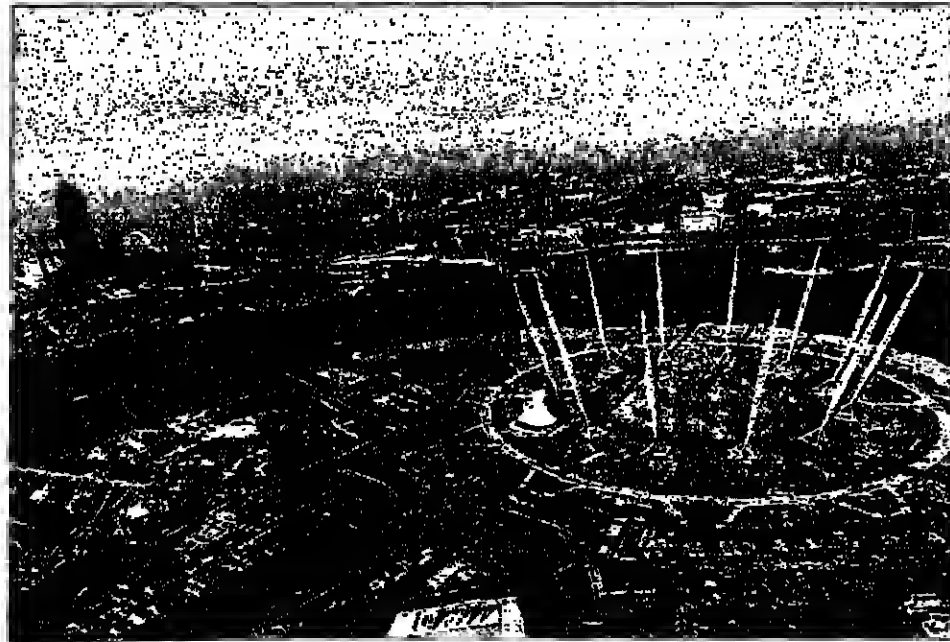
The Millennium Dome will cause people to marvel, former deputy Prime Minister Michael Heseltine told a Commons select committee yesterday. But David Lister also heard him tell MPs that he did not know how to sell the vision to the public.

The select committee inquiring into the Millennium Dome was told by the former deputy prime minister Michael Heseltine that no one could yet say what the finished exhibition there would look like. But he promised: “I can tell you that 10 years from now people will marvel at what has happened.”

He said of the £758m project in Greenwich: “It's a fantastic site and it's going to be quite wonderful but don't ask me how.”

This failed to satisfy Labour MP Claire Ward, who fired a series of questions at Mr Heseltine, who oversaw the early stages of the project and remains involved as a Millennium Commissioner. She said: “You say it's going to be wonderful but don't ask me how. That's why there's so much scepticism among the public.”

“They see a Dome but they don't know what's going to be in it. Don't you think you should have sold the vision to the public?”



Vision thing: The Dome site seen from 900ft yesterday

Photograph: Brian Harris

Mr Heseltine replied: “I just don't know how to do that. I don't see how you take a bombed out empty site and sell the finished package before you've actually got the package. You have a bombed out site. How do you sell that vision? You simply say I believe in the festival.”

Ms Ward responded: “I still think there should have been a little more substance to the idea because there was so much capital expenditure involved. We still don't have any share in the vision.”

Mr Heseltine told the Culture, Media and Sport Committee that the Dome would bring in millions of pounds from tourists. Asked why it wasn't going to be a permanent structure, he said: “If you'd gone for a traditional-looking structure you'd have been vilified by the modernists. If you'd gone for a modernist structure you'd have been vilified by the classicists.”

Mr Heseltine went on to launch an attack on Labour's pre-election handling of the project. He accused the then opposition of approaching the scheme in a spirit of “unprincipled” and “macho” politics, which he said caused unnecessary delay.

Before the election, Labour demanded assurances about the project before committing itself – on the grounds that it would inherit it in government.

Mr Heseltine said there was now no room for further serious delay. “There is a critical path and we're on it. The then opposition's behaviour before the election I regarded as regrettable.”

Mr Heseltine is now the Tories' representative on the

Millennium Commission which is overseeing the Dome project, as well as on the special co-ordinating group.

“As such, I have access to the information. Before the election, my role was played by Michael Montague, now Lord Montague. He knew everything about the project. He had all the information.”

“He certainly gave the Commission the impression that he had consulted the equivalent and responsible people in the Labour Party.”

“What actually happened is that it turned out that he was a busted flush. The moment the heat came on, he was swept aside effectively by Tony Blair and his colleagues, who in my view sought to make political macho politics of their determination to fix budgets.”

“We were always going to fix budgets. Michael Montague knew what we were going to do. He had agreed to it and told us Labour had agreed to the procedures. So I did regard the jockeying before the election and the delay before the election as unnecessary and unprincipled.”

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# War on drugs has failed to stop rising tide of addiction

Britain's efforts to tackle drug abuse are simply not working. Despite millions being spent on campaigns, a drug "epidemic" is developing and a radical approach is needed, Glenda Cooper, Social Affairs Correspondent, talks to the experts.

One in three children will grow up addicted to drugs, alcohol and tobacco, the leading research charity Action on Addiction warned yesterday. But despite a massive investment in drug education - £50m alone in the last three years - it is failing to change young people's attitudes and behaviour.

Rather than investing in "panda cars" and pop propaganda we should be putting money into studies to find out what will be effective in combating drug abuse, said Professor John Strang, of Action on

Addiction and former head of the Government task force on drugs. Launching a £1m appeal for the charity, he warned there was an "epidemic still in development" with the number of heroin addicts doubling in the last three years. Despite policies to restrict supply, the price of heroin in real terms has halved between 1986 and 1996, suggesting significantly increased availability. At the same time, purity of the heroin has increased.

And in some areas of Britain drugs have become a way of life. A study of children in a deprived area of Glasgow found that nearly a third of 12-14-year-olds had experimented with at least three illicit drugs. Many of those questioned viewed their drugs activity as recreational and "it was common for [them] to be puzzled by the suggestion that their drug use was problematic or dangerous".

Professor Strang said yesterday: "It is disappointing that the new post of Drugs Tsar comes from the US. It is extremely a strange role model

to choose when you look at the extent of the drugs problem, which dwarfs our own."

He said that the best way to deal with heroin was to apply market forces and treat it as another business. By cutting off supplies effectively, prices would go up and many occasional or novice users would be dissuaded from trying the drug.

"It works the same way as alcohol or tobacco. If you increase the price by 10 per cent in real terms [the number of users will fall] 5 to 10 per cent over all."

But he added that this would only work if it was coupled with help and rehabilitation.

"It's too simplistic and convenient to isolate drugs as a social issue and blight. The Glasgow study shows the extent of drug use amongst young people and many see this as a positive, recreational part of their lives. We need credible education initiatives which can compete against all the other sources of information, such as friends, newspapers, magazines, television, music and films."



Royal farewell: The Royal Yacht Britannia passing Greenwich yesterday on her way up the Thames for the last time before being decommissioned. The vessel will be docked at the Pool of London until 21 November before leaving for her last royal duties in Portsmouth. Photograph: Brian Harris

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### IN BRIEF

#### Czech gypsies refused aid

The flow of Czech gypsy asylum seekers into Britain switched from Dover to the centre of London yesterday as Westminster City Council leaders called on the Government to intervene.

A total of 60 Czech gypsies arrived at an advice and assessment centre in Westminster seeking asylum. Nikki Page, Tory chairman of the Westminster City Council's housing committee, said: "The Government has got to act. Local government cannot cope with these people."

The asylum seekers told officials that they had taken a coach to Loodoo to avoid a British National Party protest march in Dover tomorrow, but they were put back on a coach to return to Dover last night.

Ms Page estimated that in Westminster alone, the asylum seekers were costing £169,000 a week - equivalent to an extra £1.70p per week on the rates.

Ferry operators were yesterday taking legal advice after the Government threatened criminal charges over their refusal to pay for the return of Czech and Slovak gypsy asylum seekers at Dover. The immigration minister, Mike O'Brien, accused directors of the two biggest companies, P&O and Stena, of "flouting" the law following a heated meeting at the Home Office.

— Colin Brown  
Chief Political Correspondent

#### IRA denial

The IRA yesterday issued a fresh denial that the organisation is split over the maintenance of its ceasefire and the continuation of the peace process which has taken Sinn Féin into multi-party talks at Stormont.

The group insisted that it remained "intact, united and committed", describing reports of major disagreements and wholesale resignations as fanciful and greatly exaggerated.

Republican sources admit that a small number of resignations have taken place from both the IRA and Sinn Féin, but vehemently deny claims that 20 senior IRA figures have resigned and that 35 members of the organisation's key South Armagh unit have walked out.

— David McKittrick  
Ireland Correspondent

#### Mountain railway rides into a storm

The Government's stock among conservationists plunged yesterday with the approval of most of the public money needed to build a funicular railway on Cairn Gorm, one of Britain's highest mountains. Only a courtroom challenge now appears to stand in the way of the town's £17m project.

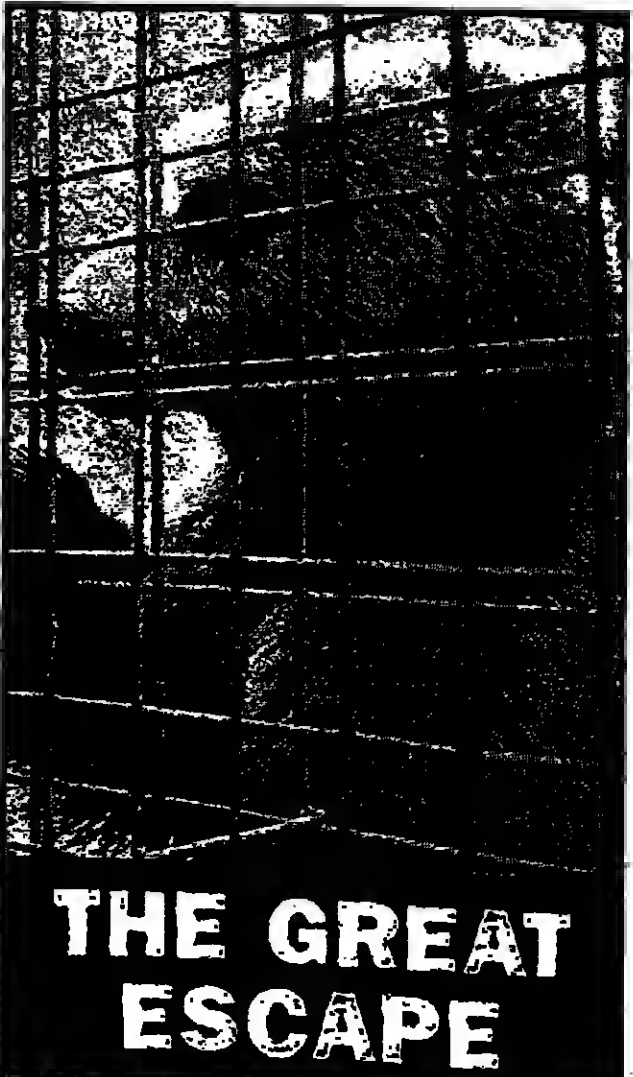
Scottish Office ministers were divided over the railway, intended to boost the Aviemore ski area and create a year-round attraction. The semi-arctic Cairngorms are valued by mountaineers for their wild quality and by conservationists as a breeding ground for rare birds such as the Dotterel and Ptarmigan. But Donald Dewar, Secretary of State for Scotland, has supported the view of local councillors and the quango Highlands Enterprise that the railway is crucial to economic rejuvenation.

The Cairn Gorm Chairlift Company say the funicular will

provide 50 new jobs. The next hurdle will be on Tuesday at the Edinburgh Court of Sessions when the RSPB and Worldwide Fund for Nature will argue the railway would breach European environmental law.

Yesterday, backers of the scheme were believed to be lodging a £2m application for European Regional Development funding. This, together with the court case, could be a deciding factor in the success of the project. The start of work on the railway will bring to an end a long-running political row, inherited by the Government from the Tories, which has seen ministers at odds on the value of the scheme. Bill Wright, of the Cairn Gorm campaign, said the Government's decision was extraordinary when there were so many doubts about the financial viability of this scheme and its potential effect on a fragile mountain habitat.

— Stephen Goodwin



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# 9/HEALTH

## Breast cancer treatment is variable and substandard

**A woman's risk of undergoing a mastectomy for breast cancer ranges from zero to 80 per cent depending on the surgeon to whom she is referred.** Jeremy Laurence, Health Editor, says the finding adds to fears about low standards of treatment in the UK.

A world-wide review of breast cancer treatment has established that for women with early-stage tumours removing the lump is as safe as removing the whole breast, provided it is accompanied by radiotherapy and drug treatment.

The NHS breast screening programme was set up in 1988 to detect cancers at a stage when the small size of the tumours allowed for less radical surgery.

Yet the treatment women actually receive varies widely, depending on the individual preference of the surgeon re-

sponsible for them, according to a study published tomorrow.

The review of 600 post-menopausal women with breast cancer who were treated by 35 surgeons has shown that the mastectomy rate varied from nil to 80 per cent. The variation was not linked to size of tumour or severity of disease.

The unnamed surgeon with the 80 per cent mastectomy rate had performed the operation on eight out of the ten breast cancer patients he had treated during the period of the study in 1991-92.

Five surgeons had treated only one patient and another five surgeons had managed five or fewer patients.

Those surgeons with higher caseloads of more than 20 patients had a lower mastectomy rate - at 15 per cent, suggesting a more modern approach to treatment - than those with smaller caseloads.

International comparisons show that 45 per cent of British women diagnosed with breast cancer die within five years compared with 21 per cent in the United States, 35 per cent

in France and 40 per cent in Germany. The Cancer Research Campaign has blamed the discrepancy on poor standards of treatment in the UK.

The current study, published in the *British Medical Journal*, was conducted in the former south-east Thames region of the NHS, covering Kent, east Sussex and south-east London. Figures for 1995-96 show that that region had the highest number of screen detected cancers operated on by surgeons with a caseload of less than 10 breast cancer patients a year.

One in five patients in the study did not receive radiotherapy, including 51 of 317 patients with unfavourable tumours. Radiotherapy has been shown to reduce local recurrence of the cancer in the breast, regardless of whether the tumour is classified as favourable or unfavourable, although it does not affect overall survival.

The authors of the study, from the Breast Screening Quality Assurance Centre at King's College Hospital, London, say: "Women should not be put at increased risk of local re-

currence by not having radiotherapy because the quality ... of life must suffer."

In addition, although most surgeons gave the hormonal drug tamoxifen, 26 of the 600 patients did not receive it, despite the fact that it has been shown to have a "clear survival benefit" for post-menopausal women, and the benefits outweigh the risk of side effects.

Chemotherapy, which may delay local recurrence of the disease in some patients, was given to less than 3 per cent of the women, but the authors say the evidence may have been too new to influence treatment decisions at the time of the study in 1991-92.

They warn that more consistency in treatment is required that does not depend on individual "surgical preference" and that the current guidelines issued to surgeons are deficient.

The NHS Breast Screening programme has a target of cutting deaths by a quarter by the year 2000. The authors say: "Sub-optimal treatment ... could compromise [the target's] success."

## Cell discovery leads to drugs rethink

**Scientists are claiming that a discovery about the way cancer cells grow could lead to kinder treatments that are also more effective.** Jeremy Laurence reports on a surprise finding.

Stopping cancers growing may be simpler than has been thought. Researchers have found that the signalling mechanism which determines whether a cancer cell lives or dies is located on its surface, not inside it protected by an impermeable membrane, and should therefore be an easier target for new drugs.

Scientists from the Imperial Cancer Re-

search Fund say the discovery, published in the US journal *Science*, opens the way for a new generation of cancer drugs that would be less toxic than those currently used. Instead of poisoning the cancer cells, the new drugs would manipulate the appropriate on/off switches on their surface. This should mean an easier and safer way of treating patients with cancer.

Professor Gerard Evan, head of the research team, said: "The results have been totally unexpected. There was no reason to believe that the 'abort' programme that destroys tumour cells should operate via the cell surface."

The growth of cells is known to be controlled by a process known as apoptosis, or cell suicide, which prevents any rogue cells taking over the body. In cancer, the suicide

programme becomes blocked, leading to uncontrolled growth of the cells, resulting in a tumour.

Professor Evan said: "We have now found that the suicide programme is routed out of the cell and then back in through its surface. This new discovery of how cell death is triggered is very important for understanding how cancer cells arise. It also suggests novel ways of selectively attacking cancer cells without damaging normal ones."

Commenting on the finding, Andrew Wylie, professor of experimental pathology at the University of Edinburgh, said: "This new discovery will mean that drug companies can start to research a new generation of cancer drugs that may well increase survival rates."



Womb to water: Doctors have now warned mothers that staying in the water too long after the birth without clamping the umbilical cord could damage the baby

## Warning over birthing pools

Birthing pools, in which women deliver underwater, may ease the passage from womb to world but they carry a formerly unrecognised danger to the baby. Doctors at the Chelsea and Westminster hospital, London, report a case in which a baby girl narrowly escaped permanent brain damage after being born in a pool hired by her mother at home.

The girl was born normally and the mother stayed in the pool cradling her while waiting for the afterbirth. When this had not arrived after 30 minutes, the mother got out and the midwife clamped the umbilical cord carrying the blood vessels linking the mother with the baby.

The next day the baby was floppy and not feeding properly. Hospital tests showed she had very thick blood with almost twice the normal quantity of red blood cells. Thick blood carries a danger that it may sludge in small blood vessels in the brain causing permanent damage. In this case the baby was treated to dilute her blood and made a complete recovery.

Dr Ed Abrahamson and colleagues, writing in the *Lancet* medical journal, say the problem was probably due to blood draining from the mother's afterbirth into the baby while they were still in the pool. In a normal birth the blood vessels in the umbilical cord constrict on exposure to the air but in a birthing pool where the water is kept at around 36C cord blood vessels may stay open much longer.

The doctors advise mothers using birthing pools either to get out of the water or to clamp the cord within a minute or two of delivery of the baby.

— Jeremy Laurence

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## Ministers want to ban calculators in class

The Government is ignoring curriculum advisers who say calculators are not bad for young children's maths. Judith Judd finds out why ministers want to banish them from the classroom.

Ministers have spurned recommendations from their own curriculum advisers and are trying to ban calculators for all primary school pupils. Angry mathematicians say the decision flies in the face of research which shows that calculators are not to blame for the nation's poor performance in maths.

Calculators have long been under attack for damaging children's mental arithmetic. Before the election, David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, said that he intended to ban calculators for children under eight. But an unpublished report for ministers from the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority found no evidence of a link between calculators and poor mental arithmetic among infant pupils.

Now Estelle Morris, the

schools standards minister, has written to the authority saying that the use of calculators should be strongly discouraged not only for the under-eights but for all pupils up to 11. Even in secondary schools, she says, their use should be reviewed.

Ministers have discovered that they cannot enforce a ban on calculators without changing the law but they are insisting on guidance to teachers warning against their use.

Ms Morris has told Sir William Stubbs, the authority's chairman, that the recommendations "do not go far enough. Our firm view is that the Government's drive to raise standards of numeracy in primary schools would be best served by strongly discouraging calculator use in primary schools. Mental calculation must be accorded a central place in the teaching of mathematics and should always be used as the first resort method of calculation."

However, the report on calculators for infants says: "The evidence ... indicates that the use of calculators is generally infrequent and there are few schools in which pupils have ready and regular access to calculators." Nor is there any evi-

dence that the use of calculators makes much difference to pupils' maths, the report says. Other features of teaching are much more likely to be to blame.

Professor Sig Prais, of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, said he was unconvinced by the report. "You have to get the basic mental skills firmly implanted and that cannot be done if children are using calculators."

The recent Third International Maths and Science Survey found that the five highest scoring countries used calculators much less frequently than the low scoring countries.

But Professor Margaret Brown, of the Government's numeracy task force, pointed out that, in England, the 13-year-olds who did best in the survey were those who used calculators most frequently. "Teachers are not using calculators instead of doing mental arithmetic. They are using them to develop skills such as developing ideas of number and for reinforcing what people have learnt," she said.

"Children like calculators. They are motivating and they show that the maths at school is like the maths people do outside."



Abreast of fashion: Olympic bronze medallist Graeme Smith trying out Speedo's new unified goggles and hat in the pool at Hyatt Carlton Tower in London. Speedo claims their Speed Mask makes swimmers go faster  
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## Meningitis drug hope

Hopes of finding a way to stem meningitis child deaths were raised yesterday by results from the first patient trial of a new drug.

Despite treatment with antibiotics, between 20-50 per cent of children who contract the dangerous blood infection meningococcal septicaemia die, usually within 24 hours. Those who survive are often left disabled from brain injury or suffer gangrene leading to the loss of limbs.

The new drug, a genetically engineered version of a protein produced by human immune cells to combat infection, dramatically cut the expected number of deaths in a small group of seriously ill children. The researchers, led by Dr Brett Giroir at the University of Texas in the United States said the results were far better than expected for such ill patients.

Scientists have now launched a major trial of the drug, recombinant bactericidal/permeability-increasing protein (rBPI), in Britain, the US and Canada.

## Bloom's kosher court appeal

The man who ran Bloom's, the famous Jewish restaurant in the East End of London, yesterday launched a High Court attempt to overturn a religious court's decision to ban him from the kosher food business.

Michael Bloom lost his livelihood after non-kosher meat was found in a refrigerator at the restaurant in Whitechapel, London, two years ago.

Michael Supperstone QC, for Mr Bloom, said Mr Bloom was "kept in the dark" about a crucial statement from a driver confessing that he was to blame for the serious breach of strict Jewish dietary law.

He said the London Beth Din (court of the chief rabbi) had put Mr Bloom out of business, even though the judge presiding over the tribunal knew of the driver's confession, and asked the High Court to order a re-hearing by the religious court.

## Bogus officials strip boy, 5

A mother was "horrified" to discover that two social workers who carried out a strip-search on her five-year-old son at her home were bogus officials, police said yesterday.

Devon and Cornwall Police are hunting the man and woman involved in the incident in Plymouth on Wednesday, Sergeant Nick Yates said. "The child was physically uninjured, but we do not know what effect this has had on him. We want to hear from anyone who thinks they might have had a visit from this couple."

The while couple were allowed into the home in the North Prospect area after producing some form of identification. They told the 31-year-old mother complaints had been made that her son had been assaulted and humiliated with cigarette ends, said the police.

The police said the man was about 45, 6ft tall, of average build with short mousy hair, and had a moustache with curly ends and a goatee beard. The woman was aged 35, 5ft 2 in. with bobbed, streaked hair.

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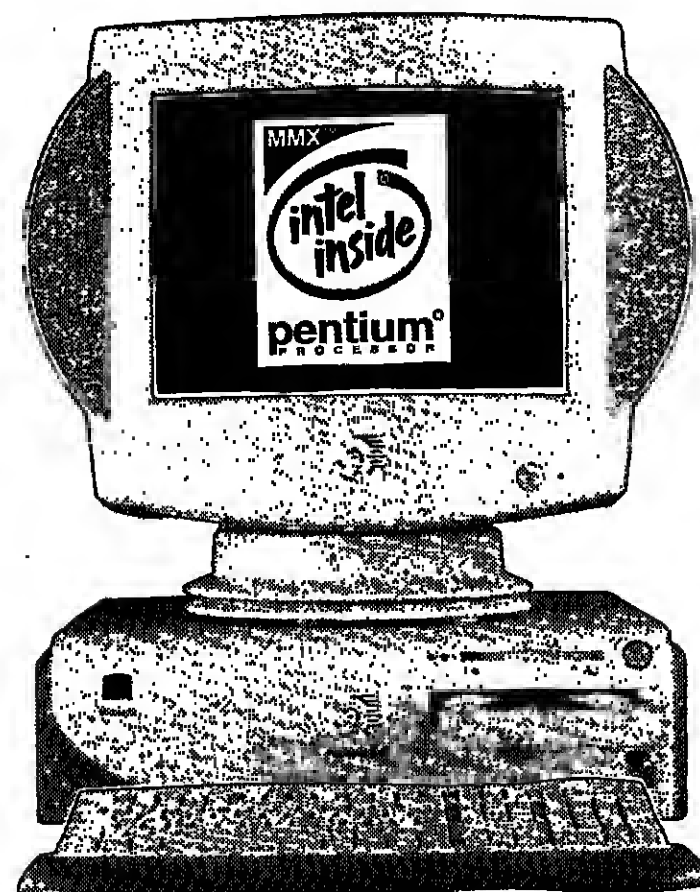
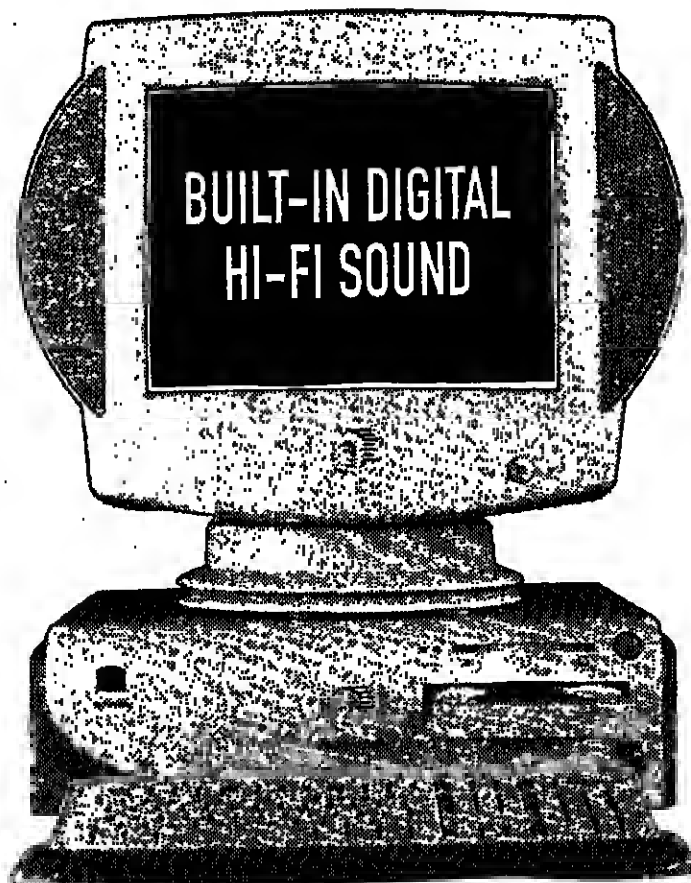
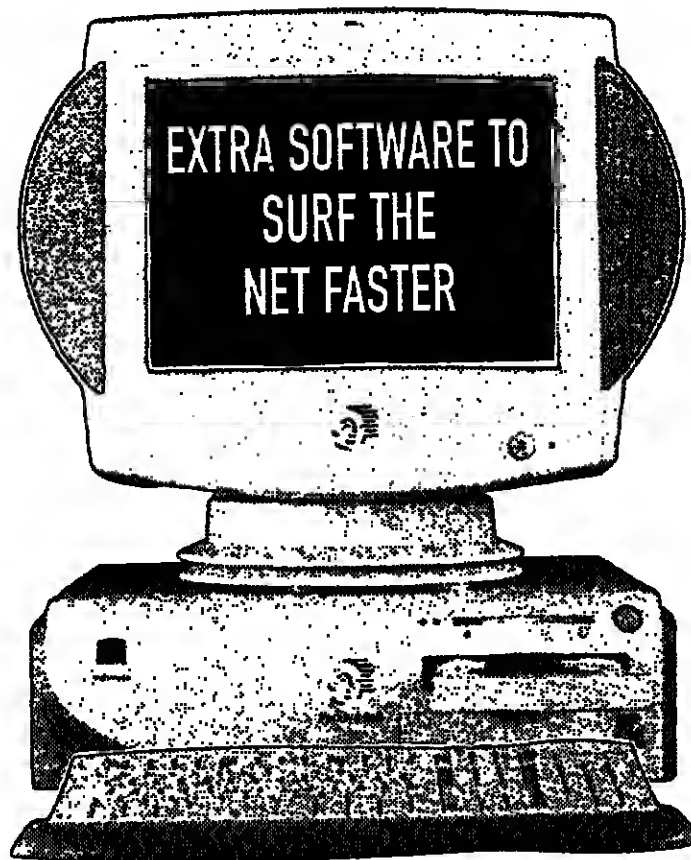
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## Hitmen kill the birdman of Palma

The man with the biggest collection of parrots, macaws and cockatoos in Europe was shot dead yesterday in Mallorca, along with his eight-year-old son and maid. Police think they were victims of a Mafia-style "hit squad".

Manfred Meisel, 49, a beer importer known on Mallorca as "the Beer King" and manager of a bar that employed 90 staff, was found with a bullet in his head in his villa near Palma. He had told friends of feeling under threat since March, perhaps because of the enormous amount of cash he handled in connection with his exotic birds, which he imported from the Philippines and Singapore.

No money or credit cards were taken from the villa, and not one valuable bird freed from 400 cages. The killers scaled a spiked perimeter fence and eluded five guard dogs. Meisel's son Patrick was shot twice in the temple while he was sleeping. Claudia Leisen, 30, who tended the newly hatched chicks every four hours, appeared to have had her wrists tied before she was shot in the back. — Elizabeth Nash, Madrid



Coastal linc Mont-St-Michel, on the south-west coast of France, surrounded by sand at low tide. The French government is to spend an estimated Fr500m (£53m) on a seven-year-project to protect the bay. Photograph: Reuters/Jean-Yves Destoux

## A new Kohl caper – but not so funny

Did Helmut Kohl know about his secret agents' hare-brained scheme to smuggle plutonium into Germany? Yesterday was the moment of truth. But Imre Karac, in Bonn says that before a parliamentary inquiry, the Chancellor was overtaken by amnesia.

Some of the facts of German dabbling in state-sponsored terrorism are simple enough. On 10 August 1994, smack in the middle of Mr Kohl's re-election campaign, agents at Munich airport arrested three men carrying a radioactive briefcase. Contents: 363 grams of weapons-grade plutonium. Origin: the former USSR.

The find was hailed as a great triumph for the security services, the BND, and by extension, for the government. A tiny consignment of low-grade uranium smuggled into Germany had greatly alarmed the public. After Munich, Mr Kohl would be able to go to the voters and assure them that he had everything under control.

Things did not quite work out like that, because somebody let it be known that the plutonium affair was a BND stunt from beginning to end. There is little doubt now that Bernd Schmidbauer, head of the BND, set it up and arranged payments to the hapless couriers – a Colombian and two Spaniards – who have since been thrown into jail.

Opposition politicians claim that the operation was masterminded by Mr Schmidbauer. Its

aim was to give Mr Kohl a pre-election boost, and to force Russia to tighten security at its nuclear reactors. Mr Schmidbauer is a friend and political appointee of Mr Kohl's and has his office in the chancellery in Bonn. He remains in charge.

Three years after the event, Mr Kohl was finally popped the question yesterday by members of a parliamentary committee. "When did you find out about the plutonium caper?" He sweated and wriggled in his seat, but perked up noticeably when the cakes arrived. "It was on the weekend of 12th and 13th August," he replied confidently.

"But were you not seen having dinner with Mr Schmidbauer at a restaurant before that?" he was asked. Dinner? Restaurant? His memory was failing now. "I really don't know," he shrugged. The Chancellor had a perfect alibi: he was on holiday in Austria at the time when the Lufthansa airliner landed with its deadly cargo in Munich.

This went on for a while longer. His inquisitors from the opposition parties probed, but the Chancellor, reputed to have a telephone book of a brain, just could not recall a thing. "Can you remember anything at all?" shouted a red-faced Social Democrat. "I cannot recall what I did on a particular day," Mr Kohl repeated.

Another Social Democrat changed tack. "We have information that the people who carried out the Munich job took part in two other similar stunts," he said. "Where did you get that," frowned the Chancellor. "It says so in the letter you wrote to President Yeltsin," Mr Kohl could not remember that, either.

## EU officials face inquiry

The European Commission announced yesterday that it was lifting diplomatic immunity from three high-ranking officials suspected of corruption.

The move clears the way for the Belgian police to intensify investigations into allegations that funds earmarked for the 1993 European Year of Tourism, had been paid out by the commission's tourism unit

to bogus schemes in exchange for bribes.

The removal of immunity means the three officials could face prosecution. George Tzoanos, the Greek former head of the tourism unit, spent a year in jail awaiting a decision on prosecution but the Belgian police complained their inquiries were hindered by the commission.

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# Arab nations stay away from talks in snub to Clinton

**The Americans have advertised the Arab-Israeli economic conference in Qatar this weekend as a cornerstone of the Middle East 'peace'. But it looks likely to turn into farce, Robert Fisk writes, because only four of the 21 Arab states intend to turn up.**

Humiliation is not the word for it. President Bill Clinton was on the phone to the Saudis, Martin Indyk — former ambassador to Israel and formerly leader of one of the most prominent pro-Israeli lobby groups in the United States — toured the Middle East, pleading with the Arabs to attend, and the result? An unprecedented snub from Arab nations who believe the US has betrayed both the Middle East "peace" and the honest broker role which Washington originally claimed for itself in the Middle East.

Goodbye the Saudis, who have lost faith in the US's pro-Israeli stewardship of the Oslo agreement. Goodbye Syria, which suspects Israel will never give back the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. Goodbye Morocco, Washington's friend in the Maghreb. Goodbye Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain – headquarters to the US fleet in the Gulf – and goodbye Sudan and Libya and Algeria and even the Arab League. Goodbye Lebanon, theatre for the only remaining Arab-Israeli war. Goodbye the Palestine Liberation Organization – supposedly the beneficiary (with Israel) of the Oslo accords. And goodbye Egypt, whose President suggested that if US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright wanted to hear its views, it could always chat to the Egyptian ambassador to Doha, capital of the luckless Qatar which is hosting the conference.

No wonder the Americans are having second thoughts about attacking Saddam Hussein yet again for his intransigence. Would Oman and Yemen or Jordan turn up if they did? No wonder there comes only silence from the US State Department, whose acolytes have been travelling the Arab world for help. Only Qatar itself, Jordan -loyally proving the integrity of its peace treaty with Israel - Yemen and Kuwait are prepared to turn up for the conference that is sur-

posed, in Washington's immortal cliché, "to put the peace process back on track."

Kuwait, still fearful of President Saddam, could be expected to turn up in Doha on Sunday. King Hussein of Jordan, despite the Israeli attempt to murder a Hamas official in Amman, wished to show his loyalty to the agreements it signed with Israel. Oman and Yemen — scarcely lynch-pins of the "peace process" — will take their seats, but Oman will send only a low-level economic delegation led by an undersecretary of the commerce ministry. This is the measure to which the hopes of a Middle East peace have fallen since Benjamin Netanyahu became Prime Minister of Israel and refused to give back Golan, built more Jewish settlements on occupied Arab land and denied the possibility of a Palestinian state.

The Israelis, of course, will be turning up in Qatar in force, led by David Levy, the foreign minister, supported by Mrs Albright and the US commerce secretary, William Daley. But as a symbol of future peace, the Qatar conference is a disaster. Blaming Mr Netanyahu for the collapse of the "peace process" – and those quotation marks are becoming ever more important – Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has called the conference "meaningless". Barring last minute changes of heart, he is right.

No reference was made by the Arabs to Palestinian suicide bombs in Jerusalem. And the Israelis will be the first to suggest the Arabs are denying the very spirit of the "peace process". Moshe Fogel, the Israeli government spokesman, remarked dismissively that more than 90 per cent of Israel's trade is with "developed [sic] countries" - little over 1 per cent with the Arabs - and that it is the Arabs who will lose by boycotting the Qatar summit. In reality, it is US credibility that once again stands to lose, as American leaders fail, yet again, to force Israel to abide by the Oslo agreement.

International companies — Mobil, Occidental, Merck, Phillips and Petronas — have contributed \$1.89m along with the Qataris for the conference, most of which is likely to prove a worthless investment. Qatar itself has been condemned by both Saudi Arabia and Egypt for holding the forum when Israel continues to build Jewish settlements on Arab land which is occupied. Or, in the dishonest words of the State Department, "disputed" land.



## Shin Bet informer who could have saved Rabin

A commission headed by a retired chief justice yesterday censured Israel's Shin Bet security service for its lax handling of a right-wing informer who failed to mention that his best friend was planning to assassinate the prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin.

The informer was Avishai Raviv, who has been at the centre of a web of conspiracy theories since his double-agent role was revealed two years ago. His friend was Yigal Amir, now serving a life sentence for murdering Rabin in November 1995.

In its report, now declassified, Judge Meir Shamgar's inquiry found that Amir had boasted frequently of his plan to harm the prime minister. But, rather than warn the security service, Ravid told Amir that a biblical law which prescribes the

## BLAIR WARNS OVER JERUSALEM SETTLEMENTS

The Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, held "friendly and constructive" talks with Tony Blair and Robin Cook at the start of a two-day visit to London yesterday.

But Britain emphasised its unhappiness at Israel's contin-

ued enthusiasm for new Jewish settlements in Arab East Jerusalem. Mr Blair expressed "great concern about the state of the peace process", and Mr Cook made clear that Britain "strongly supports" calls by the US Secretary of State.

Madeleine Albright, for a "time-out" on the building of new settlements. Britain says the Middle East peace process will be "a key priority" during the British presidency of the European Union in the first half of next year.

— Steve Crawshaw

the knowledge that he was exempt from responsibility because of his official backing. His supervision by the Shin Bet was ineffectual, and in most cases they learned about what happened only after the event."

Politicians are now demanding that Ravi be charged with not acting to prevent the assassination. Some MPs want his Shin Bet controllers to be charged, too.

Raviv was recruited by the Shin Bet in 1987 when he was 20. He had already been active in Rabbi Meir Kahane's ultra-nationalist Kach movement. Why, then, did he agree to inform on his friends? Not for money. Rather he seems to have enjoyed the excitement. The Shin Bet men were his heroes. But he was fatally selective in which information he gave them. — *Eric Silver, Jerusalem*

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# 15/HONG KONG

## A corrupt police force haunted by its criminal record

Corruption has once more raised its ugly head within the Hong Kong police. The authorities have moved quickly to try to deal with it, but Stephen Vines in Hong Kong sees worrying signs for the future.

The Hong Kong government is worried. It issued a statement this week saying it was determined to maintain the police force "as one of the finest, upholding law and order, with integrity, honesty and professionalism".

The statement came as a response to "views expressed by various people concerning a number of incidents". Top of the list are the embarrassing circumstances under which the police have been forced to freeze all promotions following the arrest of eight officers on corruption charges connected with promotion boards.

These arrests have sent shock waves through both the police force and the public who fear that the rampant corruption which made the police notorious during the Seventies is re-emerging.

Few details have been given about the arrests by Hong Kong's powerful Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), but it has been confirmed that officers, including two chief inspectors, are suspected of bribery offences in connection with promotions to the rank of sergeant. Decisions over the promotion of more than 1,000 officers have been frozen while investigations are in progress.

The ICAC appears to be making a clear statement (that despite the change of sovereignty it is still in business).

Hong Kong has an unusually large police force, with 438 policemen for every 100,000 members of the public, one of the highest ratios in the world.

The high level of policing is given as one reason for low levels of crime, but it was not so long ago that a great deal of crime was generated by the police force itself. Desk sergeants in local police stations became millionaires as they controlled the distribution of bribes and allocation of protection rackets.

The force was so riddled with corruption that post-war colonial governments avoided confronting the issue, fearing it would lead to the total breakdown of law and order. So powerful were corrupt policemen in the Sixties that they succeeded in getting a committee of inquiry to lay the blame for a series of riots on the territory's few prominent anti-police corruption campaigners.

However, public unease about the police was growing and the government was forced to respond. Investigations into the corruption of very senior officers revealed that they had ferreted away millions of dollars.



Godber: Senior officer convicted of corruption

The most notorious culprit was a Briton, former senior superintendent Peter Godber. Even after his arrest he managed to board a plane for Singapore and return to Britain. The public was outraged and campaigned for his return to face trial.

The Godber case broke the floodgates of public frustration with police corruption, which stretched down to the smallest stall holder having to pay off local constables to remain in business. Sir Murray MacLehose, who was then governor, decided that

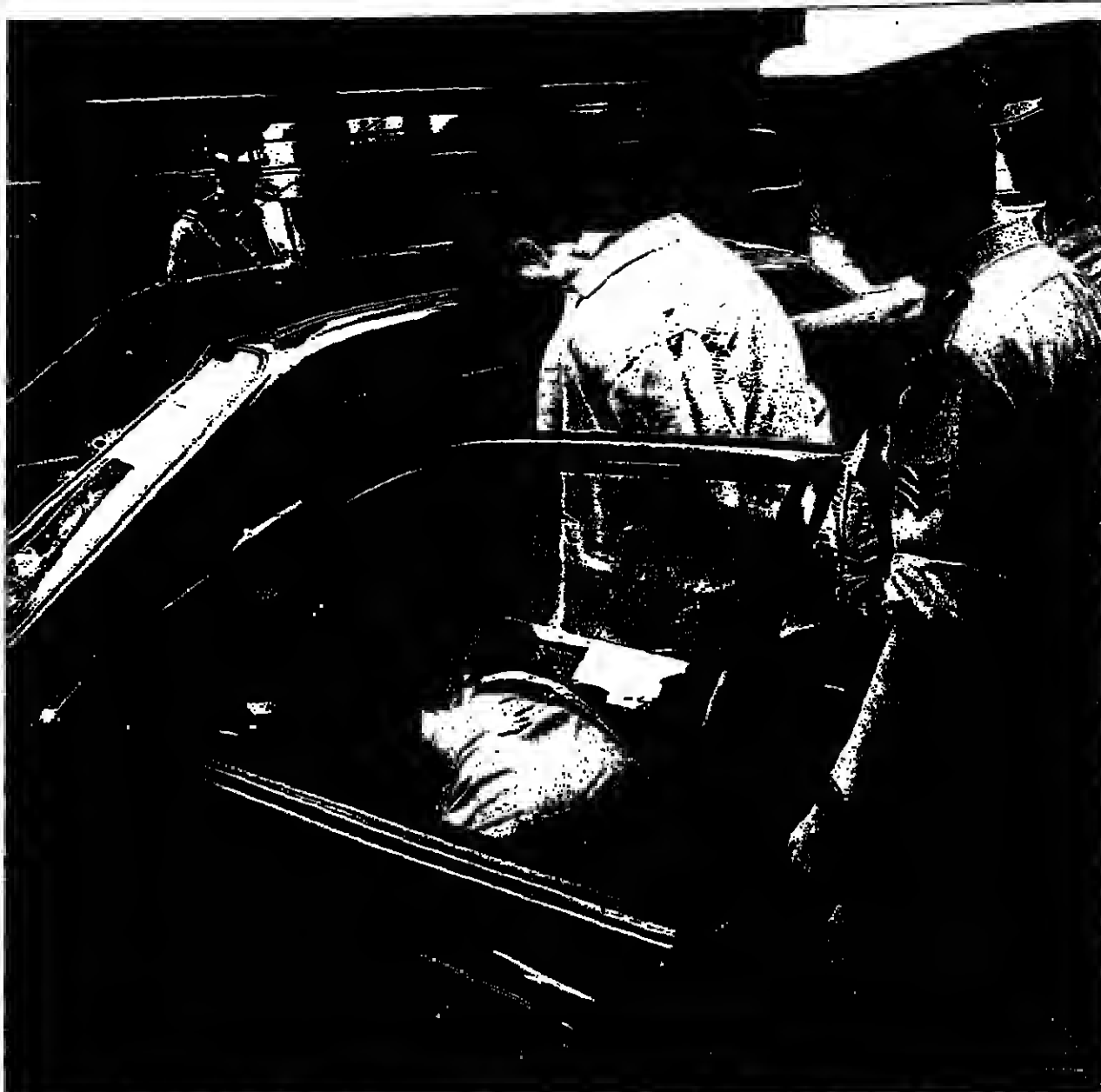
confidence could only be restored by the establishment of the ICAC. When it came into being in 1974 it was overwhelmed with inquiries into police corruption. A way was found to bring Godber back from London and he was extradited on charges of accepting a bribe for the promotion of a police officer.

Godber's conviction opened the door for aggressive prosecutions of police officers by the ICAC. Many corrupt sergeants fled to Taiwan, where there was no extradition treaty. The arrest of police officers peaked in 1977, provoking the nearest Hong Kong has come to a police revolt, when the ICAC headquarters was besieged by angry members of the force demanding the release of their colleagues.

A dangerous stand-off developed. The government offered a partial amnesty to get the police back to work. It virtually let off all officers suspected of more minor crimes committed before the beginning of the year. The controversial amnesty was only partially mitigated by a change to the police law giving the Commissioner of Police summary dismissal powers.

The experience of the Seventies is embedded in Hong Kong's folk memory. Countless surveys have shown that one of the biggest worries about last July's transfer of power was that it would lead to an upsurge of corruption, especially among the police, who have secured a far better reputation in recent years. A survey conducted by the ICAC, a year before the handover, found three-quarters of those questioned believed the commission's role "would become more important as 1997 drew near". Just before the handover, the ICAC recorded a disturbing increase in reports of corruption in public bodies and government departments but not in the police.

The public is worried that the bad old days might be coming back, although astonishingly, the new government has responded to this concern by suggesting that the main watchdog, the ICAC, should be shorn of the word "Independent" in its English title.



Crime busters! Hong Kong has one of the highest ratios of police to public in the world

Photograph: Richard Jones

## Election bypasses the people

Nominations opened yesterday for candidates from Hong Kong hoping to join China's parliament, the National People's Congress.

However, the NPC is not famous for its independence of mind. The carefully selected people who "elect" its members are not expected to be any more independently-minded than those they elect. Fortunately for the organisers, many of the electors are also candidates, so there is less scope for confusion.

Hong Kong is holding its first election for 36 deputies since the change to Chinese sovereignty. As the word election has a different meaning in China from in Hong Kong, there is

some discomfort over the fact that only 424 hand-picked people - chaired by Tung Chee-hwa, Hong Kong's new chief executive - are involved in the process.

The number of those voting is not the only difference, as the delegates discovered during a three-day meeting to lay down the rules of election. Even in Hong Kong's pro-Peking circles votes are usually taken by ballot, or by a show of hands. However, the Chinese tradition is to pass resolutions by acclaim, signified by bouts of hand clapping. This does not give dissenters even an opportunity to register disapproval.

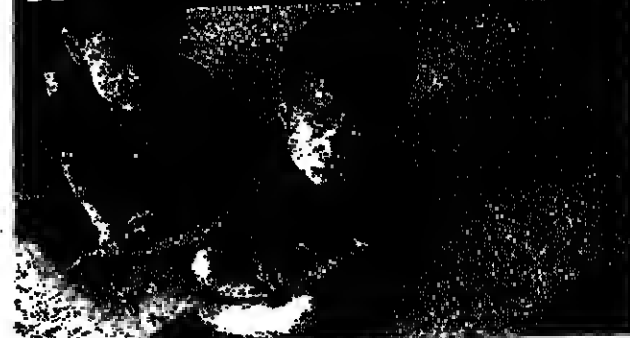
The public will not be allowed to see information supplied about the candidates, or even know who nominated them, as on the Chinese mainland, so there was no reason not to apply it in Hong Kong.

The electors are not only confident about the need to preserve exclusive access to information, they are also confident of their incorruptibility. They decided not to devise penalties for election fraud or corruption on the grounds that they were sufficiently self-disciplined not to be tempted into malpractice.

It was also decided that candidates with a criminal record need not burden electors with this information. This is just as well, as a number of likely candidates have such records.

— Stephen Vines

## MILLIONS FACE STARVATION IN NORTH KOREA



This winter may prove to have devastating consequences for the people of North Korea. For the third consecutive year, a combination of floods and drought has ruined harvests and destroyed homes. In parts of the country, children are already having to live on a diet of tree bark and roots. Without urgent help, many will not survive the bitter cold of the North Korean winter.

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## IN THE INDEPENDENT NEXT WEEK



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## Testosterone Tess and the Baldy Sisters

Women who work in a man's world risk developing a hormonal imbalance that leads to baldness and deeper voices, suggests new research. It's hair-raising stuff. Ann Treneman gets to the root of the problem.

There is a new woman in the workplace whom you may have met over the past few weeks. She's been front-page news and could go under the name of Testosterone Tess. She is young, successful and so stressed that her hormones have gone a little wonky. In fact, things are so bad that she has developed something called "testosterone overload". The result is that she has started to look a bit like Demi Moore in *Gladiator*. But Demi shaved off her hair while our new heroine is just plain losing hers.

The *Sunday Times* knows that there are "thousands" of Tesses out there who suffer from the syndrome "caused by taking on traditionally male roles in the workplace". The *Daily Mail* also knows the problem well. "Medical experts say that in adopting more aggressive and competitive working styles women are developing increased sensitivity to testosterone." And this, it says, could lead to bald patches on the head, growing thick hair on their face, neck and bodies, something called "typically male" acne and deeper voices.

There's only one problem. The medical experts who believe this are rather difficult to find. Nor does there appear to be any known syndrome called "testosterone overload". The study quoted in all the stories - conducted by the School of Pharmacy at the University of Portsmouth - turns out to be quite different in some respects. There is a real possibility that Testosterone Tess simply does not exist.

Author Rosalind Miles is not surprised at this. Nor was Professor Lisa Jardine whose

immediate response to the whole idea was "rubbish". There is a long and undistinguished history of pseudo-scientific myths that seek to persuade women that they must pay a high price if they insist on working in a man's world. "It's a scare tactic. Remember when they said that Indira Gandhi and Mrs Thatcher had more male hormones?" asks Ms Miles. "It's another 'get back in your box' scare."

This is where I would disagree. I know from personal experience that many career women do lose their hair and that an increasing number have sought help from the curious breed of expert called trichologists. Some see them as glorified hairdressers, others see them as knowing more about hair loss than any doctor. The trichologist has a lot more time to listen than a GP - but of course he is being paid £65 for doing so. In my case he proposed a course of treatment aimed at stimulating the hair follicles. Nothing was said about testosterone but a lot was said about nutrition. It turns out that our mothers were right when they told us that our hair would fall out if we didn't eat properly. But it is a long way from needing an iron supplement to inventing a new breed of women who are not in control of their testosterone levels.

The catalyst for the Testosterone Tess story was this survey at the School of Pharmacy. I decided to contact its authors, who were listed as consultant trichologist Dr Hugh Rushton and Dr Michael Norris. Dr Rushton was lecturing on hair loss in Argentina but Dr Norris was available.

The first thing to note is that though both have doctorates neither is a medical doctor. Second, it is not possible to read the report because it is still being written. But Mr Norris was happy to tell me the details of how it was conducted and the results. It made for interesting listening.

We surveyed 800 women. We found them in shops, supermarkets, banks. We went anywhere they would let us in! It was anonymous. They filled

out a form," he said. There was no way of knowing if the women surveyed were high-flyers or even worked outside the home. There is no way of knowing what, if any, stress they were under. There is no way of knowing if they had, in fact, been forced to take on traditional male roles in the workplace.

The survey asked two main questions. One was whether the parting in their hair had widened in the past five years. The other was whether they lost more hair when taking a shower than five years ago. Mr Norris says that those with wider partings would tend to suffer from a hormone problem that he characterised as an increased sensitivity to testosterone. Those who had lost more hair in the shower would probably

be suffering from some sort of nutritional deficiency.

Thirty per cent of women said yes to the shower question. "We were absolutely flabbergasted by the results," he said although he was quick to add that it is hard to tell if this even indicates an increase because there are no previous similar surveys. But, I said, that would mean that women losing their hair were suffering from improper diet, not uncontrollable rushes of testosterone. "Yes, I would say that the major factor in hair loss is nutritional. I would put money on it," he said, adding that the survey did show that 10 per cent of respondents said they had wider partings. "Most of this was in older, post-menopausal women," he said.

So far, so confusing. The survey did not target women who

were young, career-oriented or identifiably competitive and aggressive. The results show that poor diet is the main cause of hair loss in women and that most women who suffer hormonal hair loss are far too old to be Testosterone Tess.

So how did Tess come to be born then? Mr Norris says he was somewhat surprised too. "But it is a good story," he said. "And it's not necessarily a false one. But we have no data to back it up. This exists as a theory for now. The stress link can be connected to diet too. Women who work are not likely to eat properly. One thing that worries me is that we are not eating enough red meat because of BSE. That worries me."

Something else is worrying the trichologist Glenn Lyons. He

has said that "women's changing role in society is making them more male-like." I asked him to explain further: "I've got a theory that this hormonal hair loss is to do with the role that women are getting involved in. There are having to be more aggressive. They are climbing the professional ladder and it is hard to be recognised."

Mr Lyons agrees that the "argument is very arguable" but insists he has seen a startling increase in the number of young women visiting him with hormonal hair loss. This type of hair loss, he explains, has a genetic link and he says that only 15 to 20 per cent can be helped. Nutritional hair loss, in contrast, can be completely corrected.

I ask Mr Lyons if he believes he might have old-fashioned

ideas about women and their role. "No. I've said this for a long time. I'm happily married and my views are based on personal as well as professional observations. I actually listen to what the patients are telling me. I'm aware of how difficult it can be for a conscientious and loving woman. They've got a lot of things to do. I think they are a tremendous sex. Look it's only my theory - doctors might say what a load of nonsense - but I listen to women talk about stress and very often they cry too."

Doctors do, in fact, believe that much of this is rubbish. They say that there is a small group of women who are over-sensitive to testosterone but there is no known link between this condition and working in a man's world. "I don't see why

you should acquire this sensitivity because of this stress," says Dr Wayne Perry, a consultant endocrinologist at the Endocrine Centre in Wimpole Street. "It doesn't sound very likely. I'm not saying it's not possible but I think it is highly controversial. I don't know of any medical evidence myself."

The world, however, is more interested in fiction than fact. Mr Norris says he has been inundated with calls from around the world in the past week. "Hair is always good for a story but I've never seen anything like this. They've really latched on to this. People do seem really concerned about women working. Why, I don't know." It's the kind of thing you really want to ask Testosterone Tess - if only you could find her.



They told us to stay in the kitchen but we just wouldn't listen...

Photograph: Hulton Getty

### Do we get what we pay for - or just what we deserve?



JOHN  
LYTLE

Let's hear it in stereotype: fags are great at spending money, but not at raising it, saving it, using it, or making it grow. Funny, frivolous creatures that we are, we are expected to be, as a feature in *The Independent* put it only this Tuesday, "creative, exuberant and glamorous". We are not to bother our silly heads about the harsh, hierarchical world of commerce, which, as any woman who has gashed her scalp on the glass ceiling will tell you, remains, a last bastion of "unreconstructed masculinity". A place where "real men" can force you to play by their rules, so that even a

multi-billionaire like the late Malcolm Forbes has to spend his life in hiding. The poor little rich boy feared that his colleagues would discover his double-life and believe his interests lay more in makeover than takeover, in backrooms rather than boardrooms.

Forbes knew if he came out of the filing cabinet his stock would plummet, the bull market would question just why he wanted the keys to the executive washroom. For though seldom explicitly stated, the idea has long been abroad that gay men lack what butch types in red braces thrill to call the

"killer instinct". That we define ourselves not in the work, work ethic but in toying the party, party, party line. That the wealth of our emotional lives is more important to us than piling profit margins. That the only power we understand is purchasing power and we will never mobilise those potentially political pink pounds for anything else. That we are the playthings, not the playboys, of capitalism, and, bless us, so much more at home in the traditional comfort zone of the arts; that, actually, the only business we're equipped for is showbusiness. Cameron Mac-

Intosh might be rich honey, but his money flows from musicals. Colin Bell might be a big noise, but it's from producing CDs and bands. And they probably have fabulous accountants, darling. Fabulous straight accountants. The sort who possibly toll for "gay-friendly" Virgin Direct and can recite a meaningful rap about investment, guppies and DINKs (Dual Income, No Kids) but nevertheless charge way over the odds for life insurance once sexual preference is declared. Are you informed consumer or greedily consumed? Who cares? Not you, obviously. You're gay and

not cold enough to appreciate cash on demand.

Of course, last week's voluntary liquidation of the Pride Trust, the second such occurrence in six years, makes such notions easier to buy and sell. Never mind the evidence to the contrary - Lesbian and Gay Switchboard, Stonewall, the Aids organisations that successfully operate on shoestring and/or slashed budgets - what will be remembered here is how yet another merry band of gay men and lesbians let Gay Pride run up debts to the tune of some £180,000 (estimates vary) despite supposedly attracting

more than a quarter of a million people to "the largest free musical festival in the world".

The old, old story, it is ever true: queens squabble amongst themselves, dykes try to impose direction, ideological war is waged and what should be a sound proposition is suddenly a psychological playpen with no one keeping a gimlet eye on the "record sponsorship". Or setting cash aside for VAT, breakages and losses including, in this case, three generators, stolen furniture and £7,000 worth of wheelchairs that walked.

Result: annual one-is-money consuming rows around "political correctness", annual failure, the usual wild rumours of fairy-soft hands in the till and Ivan Massow, the subculture's single financial guru (well, who needs more than one?), dragged away from his ledgers to dismiss the unfortunately resurrected cliché of gay-run operations simply not being able to count, unless it's in inches.

And Massow would be correct to flip the cliché, the collapse of the Pride Trust is not because of genetic disposition. He could furthermore point out that most minority organisations staffed by volunteers routinely trip into similar traps; such failures are not exclusive to "the community", though they often appear more fiercely concentrated.

What Massow probably wouldn't do - he wouldn't be asked - is to place Pride's fall in the general context of shoddy gay-run businesses "the

community" is ever heir to. Pride is a paradigm. There isn't a gay man or lesbian of average intelligence who doesn't complain about the third-rate but invariably expensive services provided by the bulk of gay businesses, be they taxis, holiday firms, decorators, clubs, fetish shops, restaurants, a Mardi Gras or the gay press (the latter currently pulling a pot-and-kettle number that has to be seen to be disbelieved). Yet if these (very) limited companies fail then it's probable that "the community" will be blamed for not supporting such noble endeavours. Some members of the Pride Trust are already privately making such claims and certainly "the community" was denounced when the London Lesbian and Gay Centre predictably went under - just ignore allegations of missing dosh and financial mismanagement - and *Phase* magazine turned out to be just that after three appalling issues. It wasn't their fault. It was yours. You were - are - meant to take any crap, accept any old excuse, because it was gay.

Really: don't you realise that as a gay man with a legendary highly disposable income that it's your duty to be everyone's rip-off, including other gay meos?

The notion that homosexuals can't execute the business of business is patently false. It's just delivery, quality control, follow up, value that there's a problem with. But then, if part of you thinks that you don't deserve any better...

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## Alors, Monsieur Straw, you're an example to us all



EDITOR: ANDREW MARR  
DEPUTY EDITOR: COLIN HUGHES  
ADDRESS: 1 CANADA SQUARE,  
CANARY WHARF,  
LONDON E14 5DL  
TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000  
OR 0171 345 2000  
FAX: 0171 293 2435  
OR 0171-345 2435

Glad tidings: Jack Straw is learning French. The Home Secretary is emerging from his years as a geek to become a fully-rounded human being. The deadly earnest master of political briefs has been liberated by the responsibilities of power to become a Renaissance Man. Or not.

Sadly, the real story is a little less heart-warming. Mr Straw has decided he needs to speak French for his job. He wants to talk, face-to-face and uninterpreted, to the French about football hooliganism, immigration policy and the like. Far from taking time off from his ministerial duties, this is an extension of them.

Still, it can only be good that ministers should be able to talk to their continental partners in their own languages, especially as Britain will hold the presidency of the European Union from January - which means there are only seven weeks to add to the paltry number of languages at the Cabinet's command. It is astute diplomacy too, assuaging the

French fear of creeping American cultural hegemony. And a welcome relief from British linguistic arrogance. Only in Britain would it be commented on that the Prime Minister did not need headphones to listen to Jacques Chirac at last week's Canary Wharf news conference. But only in Britain would Mr Blair's ability to engage in fluent French conversation be mocked for the traces of "schoolboy French" in his accent - precisely the combination of national self-deprecation and snobbery which so inhibits the learning of languages in this country.

However, our politicians should not take up foreign languages in order simply to discharge their ministerial duties. The experience of learning French will be a good thing in itself for Mr Straw. Learning any language is commendable, although it is this newspaper's policy to encourage the learning of languages other than French - Spanish for instance, but even Latin is better than French, which

has been promoted above its station.

All ministers should get themselves a hinterland. Some members of the Cabinet do indeed have unexpected interests in their personal lives, such as Robin Cook's passion for dressage (that's horses, not clothes) and Margaret Beckett's for car-avanning. But most of them do lead sadly one-dimensional lives, as vividly shown by the inability of successive arts ministers to name films, books or plays they might have looked at since they left school.

It was not always thus: Mr Cook once wistfully cited a 19th-century predecessor as Foreign Secretary who spent two weeks in Switzerland reading books and writing one speech. Politics was essentially a part-time, flexi-time activity, practised by people who carried on other professions and who were accomplished in other walks of life. This is not to advocate the return of the amateur politician who concentrates on the big picture while civil servants do the real work. But there

should be a happy medium.

More rounded people are needed everywhere. You do not have to be an admirer of Marx's early writings to think that Britain's long working hours are alienating. It is a feature of modern capitalism that too many people see their self-worth simply in terms of paid work. This is not simply about the desire of parents to spend more time with their children, it is about the quality of our lives and the wholeness of our persons. Think how our national life would be enhanced if Chris Evans took a part-time degree in philosophy. Or if Bernie Ecclestone had taken up jazz clarinet to dilute his obsession with fast cars. Or if Rupert Murdoch tried to write symphonies instead of trying to rule the world.

The trouble is a lack of credible polymathic role models. If someone excels in more than one field, like Jonathan Miller, they tend to be twice as resented as someone who is pre-eminent in only one. Congratulations, then, to Mr Straw for his part

in bringing back the cult of the gifted amateur. Perhaps it is inevitable that politics should be dominated by driven, single-minded obsessives. But the logic of Mr Blair's style of government is that only the few members of the controlling inner circle need be full-timers. There are 100 minds - far too many, and no one can believe that they have real work to do. Alan Clark's Diaries present a convincing picture of junior ministers as docile participants in a Civil Service make-work scheme. Since then, the New Labour machine has made it even more difficult for ministers even to think aloud. But they could engage actively in the arts, sciences and culture without needing to consult the Cabinet Office about straying on to Chris Smith's departmental brief. Let us have all ministers learning a language, or demonstrating that it is possible to start to play the piano in your forties or fifties. Why should they not all serve as renaissance role models for a healthier, more balanced society?

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## LETTERS

### Smoke of battle

Sir: With all the brouhaha surrounding tobacco sponsorship of Formula One, it is too easy to forget that what is important is whether or not tobacco sponsorship of sport does encourage people to smoke.

With me, it certainly did. Aged 10, 11 or 12, I was very keen to smoke, and only because I was obsessed by Formula One. The only brands I wanted to smoke were JPS and Marlboro. JPS because I was seduced by the glossy black Lotus cars with the gold logos, and Marlboro because in 1976 James Hunt, driving the red and white Marlboro McLaren, was the ultimate *Boy's Own* hero.

It was inevitable then, that when I first had the opportunity to smoke, which was when I went away to boarding school, I took to it like a duck to water, and only managed to stop ten years later.  
PIERS TAYLOR  
Oaksey, Wiltshire

Sir: If, as we are told, donations to political parties are never made in order to influence political decisions but are merely indicative of the donor's support for at least some of the recipient's policies, there seems to be a simple way out of the dilemma. The state should set up an independent body, through which, by law, all political donations would be channelled. The money would be passed to the recipient without any indication of its source.  
MICHAEL GREEN  
Birmingham

Sir: Does anybody make a donation, large or small, to a political party without self-interest? It may be hopes for higher pensions, better quality education or a more favourable business climate.

Would it not be refreshing to hear an admission from government that many decisions in life, especially political ones, are a matter of expediency and compromise? We have a brilliant industry in this country making the best racing cars in the world and there is the strongest case for protecting it - donations or no donations.  
TOM KAREN  
Lechworth, Hertfordshire

Sir: A limit on party campaign expenses is enforceable at con-

stituency level, where the local agent is personally liable under law, but meaningless on a national basis.

Even given the most sophisticated accounting procedures (unlikely in Smith Square or Millbank), it would take months to produce audited accounts. If the victorious party were then found to be over the limit by an Ecclestone or two, would the election be null and void? Or would they pay the money back? Or would the runners-up be declared the winners?  
TONY HAKEN  
Wivenhoe, Essex

Sir: On the one hand the Government is reported to favour state funding for political parties. On the other, Gordon Brown announced that a £12m grant is to be sought from Europe to "educate" the British about the single currency. Any chance of William Hague and chums receiving a similar sum

to put forward their side of the argument?  
RICHARD DAVIS  
London N11

Sir: Now Bernie Ecclestone has had his money back, can Labour voters have their manifesto commitment back, too? If the tobacco companies and their friends haven't paid for a favour, why should they receive it?  
N R BASSETT  
London N19

### Meanwhile, in the pub

Sir: The latest proposals from Action on Smoking and Health ("Smokers face American-style prohibition", 10 November) raise the question of what the effect of prohibition would be on British pubs and restaurants.

In 1996, the Campaign for Real Ale published details of a survey on this issue, carried out by the East Midlands

Brewing Association. This found that 53 per cent favoured the introduction of no-smoking areas, with the remainder against. Only 9 per cent supported a total ban - not so much a silent majority as a strident minority.

In Toronto, a US-style ban was partially relaxed because of a 30 per cent loss of business. It is right to question the motivation of people who cannot or will not tolerate tobacco smoke and yet seek work in a pub. This is about as convincing a someone with acrophobia asking for a job as a steepjack.  
DAVID J ANDERSON  
Wakefield, West Yorkshire

### Epidemic

Sir: Is it me, or am I seeing the word "ubiquitous" everywhere these days?  
JOHN MITCHELL  
Hertford

### Power to the GPs

Sir: While the broad thrust of the proposed NHS reforms revealed in *The Independent* on 12 November is to be welcomed, they raise a number of concerns.

Reducing bureaucracy and abolishing the competitive ethos that forces hospitals to try in effect to put each other out of business can only be good. Transferring the power to set clinical priorities to those who most fully understand the problems is also good, but to give almost complete budgetary control to one section of the NHS - general practitioners - may produce new problems.

While GPs have perhaps the best overview of the local population's needs, nursing and allied health care staff and hospital doctors will have an equally valid perspective. To exclude all these others from spending decisions would risk recreating many of the antagonisms that

existed in the days when power to influence spending was seen to rest disproportionately with hospital consultants.

Moreover, GPs are the only individuals in the NHS who, in theory, can gain financial profit from the allocation of NHS funds to facilities in which they have a financial interest. If they are to have significant budgetary control of the NHS, consideration should be given to making them salaried employees, in line with everyone else.  
Dr ANDREW A JEFFREY  
Rode, Northamptonshire

Sir: I applaud the Government's intention to move away from the NHS internal market and give budgets for hospital, primary and community care to GPs. However, in your leader of 12 November you are right to question whether GPs have the interest or managerial capacity to run the commissioning process. There are already recruit-

ment problems in general practice and there is doubt whether we will soon have enough GPs left on the front line treating patients. It seems folly to divert GP time into commissioning unless you increase the number of GPs. I am a front-line GP and I train new GPs. I suggest the Government starts by looking closely at the number of recruits to general practice and the management training they receive.  
ANITA CAMPBELL  
Sheffield

### Biblical beards

Sir: The Rev Peter Hutton suggests that Jesus may not have had a beard (letter, 13 November). Honesty compels me to remind him of the prophetic verse concerning Jesus in Isaiah 50:6: "I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard".  
NEIL JACOBSON  
Wembley, Middlesex

### Jury reform

Sir: Having just completed jury service, I agree with Valerie and Martin Hewitt (letter, 11 November) that the present system is unsatisfactory, but I would not agree that all jurors should be lay magistrates. I would prefer a combination of professionals and members of the public. This would have been beneficial.

A suggestion made by a member of our jury was that there should be a period of jurors' question time before retirement, when the jury could ask questions of judge and counsel. One jury member felt she was too young to make the necessary decisions; perhaps there should be a lower age limit of 30.  
SANDRA BOUGHTON  
Slidcup, Kent

### Irish in Great War

Sir: Geraldine Burke (letter, 11 November) reports finding the monument at Ypres to the Irish who died in 1914-18. I remember many gravesites in Galway marked with the honours "Connaught Rangers and Old IRA". The paradox rests in the mass of "southern" Irishmen who fought in the Great War for, as their parliamentary leadership told them, "the rights of small nations" like Belgium and by implication Ireland.

Put this with the facts that there were more "southern" than "northern" battalions in the battle of the Somme, that Unionist shibboleth, and that in the Second World War there were more recruits from the Irish Free State than from Northern Ireland, and you may recognise why I do not wear a poppy.

Great numbers of Irish fought, in passing, for this country in 1914-18 but essentially for a freedom which was then denied them when they returned.  
M A MARTIN  
London SW19

### Croft options

Sir: Paul McCann ("The tabloid casting couch of Lara Croft", 12 November) suggests that if we have been "in a persistent vegetative state for a year" we shall not know who Lara Croft is. The opposite is the case. Only those who have been in such a state for a year will know.  
GEOFFREY BRACE  
Exeter

## Excuse me. Would you mind? For charity. A little something. Oh, it's like that, is it?



MILES KINGDON

Hello. May I take just a little of your time?

I want to talk to you today about Princess Diana.

It was said that, when she was alive, you could double the circulation of a magazine just by putting her on the cover. In a sense, that is what I have done by putting her name at the top of this article. You saw her name and started reading.

So it still works.

But that is not what I want to talk to you about today.

I want to talk to you about the very real and valuable work that she did for many charities.

Charities which are still benefiting enormously from her work. Unlike the charities which she didn't support.

Those many, many charities which she didn't support and which have seen their funds go down both in her lifetime and since she died.

Yes, for every charity which gained from her attention, there are three or four which suffered because of her lack of attention. You could say, I suppose, that Princess Diana did more harm than good to charities in this country.

But that is not what I want to talk to you about today.

What I want to talk to you about is what happens to a charity when it finds that its income is going down and that its very valuable work is being curtailed because of lack of funds. Not necessarily because of Diana, Princess of Wales.

What does it do then?

Either it goes out of business or it hires a very clever person called a fund-raiser.

I wonder if you have ever come across a fund-raiser.

He or she is a person who comes in and, for a price, organises events and public relations so that the public becomes aware of the charity and hands over lots of telly, or organises high-profile, glittering society affairs which rake in lots of moolah from the upper crust.

For instance, whoever got the BBC to back Children In Need was a pretty good fund-raiser.

Whoever invented flag days was a pretty damned good fund-raiser, even if the idea has become a little devalued.

Whoever persuaded the British that it was a fun idea to put squashed plastic tomatoes on the front of their car bonnets was a genius of a fund-raiser in his own way.

Or her way, of course.

But there comes a time when fund-raisers start to run out of ideas.

When they start to get tired. When the old magic that has served them so well begins to desert them, and they take on one charity too many.

Sometimes you read in the paper that a gigantic celebrity auction or a vintage aeroplane fly-past has failed to attract people, and made a huge loss.

That is because some legendary fund-raiser has just lost the knack.

Oh, they can go on for a while.

They can raise funds for smaller charities, and they can assist other fund-raisers who still have the gift.

But sooner or later the day comes when even the bravest fund-raiser has to admit that the jig is up, and that the time has come to throw in the towel.

What does a charity fund-raiser on the scrap-heap do?

What hope is there for a down-and-out charity organiser?

What hope can you offer to someone whose only talent is for phoning up and saying, "Darling you must get two tickets for the most wonderful ball I'm organising!" or, "Sir Edward, I know you won't refuse when I ask you to donate an un-

wanted conductor's baton to people who deserve it more than you do, and who - let's face it - can probably conduct better than you can!"

There is no hope for such people.

Except that offered by the Former Fund-Raisers Fellowship.

This wonderful organisation is the only one that is specifically designed to help ex-charity geniuses down on their luck.

Our motto is: "Once upon a time they blackmailed you into buying tickets for charity affairs you had no intention of going to and where you were bored silly and spent too much on the raffle. Now they would like to apologise and, if it's not too late, ask you for some

more money, but for themselves this time.

It's not a great motto.

In fact, it's a lousy slogan. But when you're a bunch of clapped-out fund-raisers, it's the best you can come up with.

The Former Fund-Raisers Fellowship desperately needs funds to continue its work at its retirement home in the New Forest, where we can house fund-raisers whose nerve has gone and who cannot hear the word Gala or Celebrity without sobbing.

So, please won't you give generously?

Well, just a little?

Oh.

Nothing?

We really have lost the knack, haven't we?

150 من الاموال



# 19/COMMENT

## Learning humility from the Woodward trial



DAVID  
USBOURNE  
ON DAYS IN A  
BOSTON COURT

For some weeks now I have been immersed, as a front-line reporter, in the Louise Woodward trial. What a lot I - we - have learned from it. About ourselves. About its cast of characters. About the American - make that Massachusetts - justice system. And yet, so much remains mysterious. Such as what really happened to Matthew Eappen.

One of the main lessons I have learnt, personally, is how dangerous predictions can be. How many times I made them and was proven spectacularly wrong. But I was not alone.

My greatest sin was believing that I knew what the verdict would be. Like all my reporting colleagues, I had pre-cooked a "guilty" story just in case the verdict came on final deadline, but I almost did not bother. What possessed me to assume that the jury was sharing my conclusion: that Barry Scheck and his team had done well enough to show reasonable doubt, and that Louise would surely be freed?

Even the officers of the court were convinced that Woodward would be home for Halloween. It is not widely known, for example, that on the second day of the jury's deliberations, half of the court went so far as to walk the four defence lawyers through the best exit route from the courtroom, by which Louise could most efficiently and discreetly be escorted to freedom once the "not guilty" verdict came down.

Judge Hiller Zobel was confident that Woodward would be acquitted. Of that I am sure. One source reported that when he left the courtroom briefly between hearing the word "guilty", and returning to dismiss the case, Zobel was in his chambers being physically sick. I have no idea if that is true, although I did ask him later. He did not answer, but I can believe it. Several of the court officers cried that night, I know.

Worst of all, Woodward also thought she knew what the jury would do. Already she was getting special treatment by the officers who believed in her innocence. Exceptionally, for example, she was being allowed to watch television - an episode of *Seinfeld* - in the holding cell upstairs, when the phone rang and someone announced: "The eagle has landed." A verdict was in. The verdict that turned out to be guilty.

For all of this, I blame Scheck. His arrogance, in hindsight, was breathtaking. Only when the jurors came in, their expressions betraying such gravity, did it even occur to Scheck and his colleagues that their performance - their parading of all those highly remunerated, ever-so-eminent medical experts with their explanations about old injuries and re-bleeds - might not have

washed after all. To say they were surprised is not even close; Scheck looked as though a bomb had exploded in his sides.

Even in the following few days, I had to fight to restore my objectivity. A terrible temptation had to be resisted: to pander in my reporting to the sentiment of so many back in Britain that a wrong had been done. There were some amongst my colleagues here who, in the bars after work, had been voicing doubts about Woodward even before the verdict, especially about her testimony on the stand. Too accomplished, too rehearsed, just not kosher, they said. I began to listen more carefully.

Judge Zobel, I think, still believes in Woodward's innocence. To be sure, he offers a scenario for guilt, or a degree of guilt, in the 16-page document he issued this Monday before slashing her "murder two" conviction to one of manslaughter. But if he really believed it, he would not have taken that next, extraordinary, step: sentencing her to just the 279 days already served, and letting her go free.

My worst dilemma, however, is this: how legitimate, or how low is it, to question in print the veracity of the parents of the dead baby? The glare of doubt has been shone on his mother, Deborah Eappen, especially. Why? This is a woman who has lost a child, and we, the press, decided that it would be good sport to throw doubt on her. "God forbid," one friend said to me, "that I ever lose a child and find myself suddenly subjected to such bile."

Only a day earlier, I had reported that Mrs Eappen had made a videotape apparently coaxing Matthew's elder brother, Brendan, to reveal some dread secret about Woodward, maybe about how once she had hurt him. It seems now that Mrs Eappen did not choose to make the video, but was asked to do so by the police.

Will we ever be certain of what happened? Let us, for a moment anyway, entertain the Eappee doubters.

The defence suspicion, never aired in court on the grounds that the risk of angering the jury was simply too great, was this: that Brendan, the elder brother, who is large for his age, caused the initial injury by leaping on to Matty from some height and banging his head.

Does that explain the old wrist injury, too, that showed up only at autopsy? And did the parents know this all along, and cover up for their surviving son?

What I think, changes with each day, I am clear, after sitting in that court for almost four weeks, that the case presented by the prosecution was lousy. Scheck, for all his hubris, raised reasonable doubt. Had I been a juror, I would never have voted guilty. Woodward believes it when she says she is innocent. But this may be some kind of denial.

Do I really think that she did nothing to hurt Matthew, as she insists? I am not sure that I do. Would I leave my children in her care now? No, I would not. What do I think of the decision of Judge Zobel to let her go, without even giving her a year or two more? It strikes me as indecent, and insulting to the Eappens.

Just before the trial began, I interviewed the parents of Louise Woodward, Gary and Susan. Now I wonder about this, and it chills me: are they still, as they claimed then, 100 per cent certain that their daughter did nothing?

Or do they also now have just a sliver of doubt? If so, how ghastly that must be.



Scheck: extraordinary arrogance throughout



The Micra. Ask before you borrow it.

Well caught! One of the ads that caused a largely ridiculous furore about images of violence by women against men

## Boys. They never get the joke.



SUZANNE  
MOORE  
WHAT GIRL  
POWER MEANS

I am as concerned as the next woman about adverts which show women being violent towards men. I don't think there are anything like enough of them.

The three ads that have been singled out by the Advertising Standards Authority - for Lee Jeans, showing a woman's stiletto-heeled boot resting on the buttock of a naked man, with the slogan "Put the Boot in", the Nissan ad with a man clutching his crotch and the line "Ask Before You Borrow It", and the Dress to Kill campaign for Wallis which shows men in danger of being killed because they are distracted by beautiful women - have attracted almost 100 complaints. The complaints were not upheld, but the ASA has warned advertising agencies that they should think twice about using such "Girl Power" imagery.

Three advertisements hardly constitute a trend in my book, and yet suddenly we are supposed to worry about men being demeaned and exploited in advertising imagery. These ads are said to be tasteless and sexist, and to encourage violence against men.

If men are really such sen-

sitive and humourless souls then it's no wonder women have murderous feelings towards them. Actually, I don't think most men are like this. Indeed, from the contents of the little cards pinned up in telephone boxes everywhere, it appears that some men are more than happy to pay for the privilege of being demeaned and exploited by supposedly powerful women.

Most men, I'm sure, take these ads with a pinch of salt, even though they haven't had the years of training that most women have had in turning a blind eye to offensive images of their gender. Still it is always instructive to find how any perceived shift in the balance of power, however tiny, is seen by certain men as the beginning of the end. On the whole the advertising industry, despite its relentless trendiness, has lagged behind societal change in representing the lives of modern women. We are still Stepford Mums whose main topic of conversation is washing and graying, or dutiful wives prepared to have sex with our husbands only because they have a new car.

It is fitting that Girl Power should be a concept picked up by the ad industry. For Girl Power is, in essence, a kind of re-branding.

No one wants to use the word "feminism" any more. Its just so old-fashioned, puritanical, and horror of horrors, political. Girl Power on the other hand is all about sex and fun and being up-front. Girl Power is young and streetwise and highly individualised. Girl power is not about collective action, organising marches or any of that dull business. It is about self-confidence and self-esteem, and if you are a spotty 12-year-old you may well need all the help you can get in this department.

The Spice Girl version of Girl Power to which we are now in thrall is a sugared-up version of the original Girl Power which was far more angry, disturbing and underground. Girl power meant young women talking about self-harming and menstruation rather than it being just another way of pulling boys. It meant pictures of girls with too much make-up who had scrawled "whore" on their stomachs, who were refusing the traditional discourses of femininity, who were slightly scary and out of control. The Spice, we know, are very much in control and out really scary at all. They're so in control, in fact, that after giving Nelson Mandela the best day of his life (he said it, not me) they decided to sack their manager and go it alone. It's all slavery, you see.

I fear for their future mainly on the grounds that I don't know a single girl child who thinks they are cool any longer, and as this their core market I wonder what this bunch of millionaires will do with themselves. They have saturated the market to such an extent that there hardly appears to be a product that they haven't endorsed. Their talent is not singing and dancing but marketing and promotion.

Eventually, though, even the little girls understand that at the centre of all this marketing, the product itself, the music, is not that interesting. In a dizzying spiral of consumerist confusion the Spice Girls have been so busy lending credence to other products that they have almost forgotten to produce one of their own.

Girl Power, as a form of branding, as a way of pushing yet more product, is ultimately unthreatening, as it is always about sexuality and little else. The central notion - that girls

or women are more "up for it" than they were before - will hardly bring about the collapse of the West.

Indeed the meo's magazines are falling over themselves at the moment to produce surveys that suggest that young women are increasingly sexually predatory and "experimental". In your dreams, you might even believe what you read in sex surveys.

Genuine Girl Power may, of course, be about not caring what men think, about something more than a titillating fantasy. It is still difficult to correlate the imagery of Girl Power that is prevalent in all teen magazines - for instance "20 Ways to Insult a Boy" - with what is really going on for most girls.

Certainly there is a confidence amongst young women that is very hopeful, a realisation of the importance of female friendships and an expectation of equality both at school and in the future. Yet the same old sexual double standards exist and are reported to exist by miserable teenage girls who are terrified of the names that boys might call them.

What would really help these girls is to see images of powerful women that are not reducible to sexuality. Girl power as a kind of sexual bravado is essentially limiting. And

that is all that is going on in these supposedly offensive ads. The people who complained about them are doubtless the same people who talk about humourless feminists, who resent every penny given to research into breast cancer or the grounds that men get testicular cancer, who think that women because of positive discrimination get all the best jobs, and who feel that men should not have to provide for any children that they father.

The fragility of contemporary masculinity is wondrous to behold. Is it such a delicate thing, that it must be protected at all times by bodies such as the Advertising Standards Authority? Women, I suppose, are simply harassed by being bombarded by imagery about what women should be, so they take it all rather lightly - unless of course they acquire an eating disorder and kill themselves. Men who will fare best in a changing world are surely the ones that do not take themselves so seriously, and who realise that Girl Power as it is now played out is more of a cheeky giggle than the demented cackle of a power-crazed dominatrix. Women, you may rest assured, are still a long way from having the last laugh. In the meantime, the odd snigger at men's expense is only to be expected.

## Tough love: How to flirt with tycoons and stay a virgin



DONALD  
MACINTYRE  
ON LABOUR  
AND CASH

What are the long-term lessons from the Ecclestone affair? The one certainly positive outcome will be a revolution in party funding. Sir Patrick Neill, chairman of the committee on standards in public life, and Lord Nolan's successor, is obviously keen to carry out the fundamental review that will be needed before next summer. There is a historic irony here, just as Lord Nolan's committee was set up after the cash-for-questions affair in

emergency conditions which made it virtually impossible for the government of the day to ignore its findings, so Sir Patrick's enquiry into political funding, though always intended by the new government, begins its enquiry in circumstances that also make it difficult for the government of the day to ignore what he proposes. Sir Patrick is in a powerful position, all the more so since there is now no danger that whatever he recommends will be seen as an attack on one party rather than another.

There isn't an instant, easy answer. A cap on spending, much discussed in the last 48 hours, is undoubtedly desirable. Because broadcasters in the UK have a statutory duty to be impartial, and because there is no paid-for TV advertising, there is no reason, as Paddy Ashdown's Liberal Democrats have shown, why national campaigns shouldn't be fought with a great deal less money than they are at present by the two biggest parties. But a cap still makes it possible for big businesses, or trade unions, or animal rights lobbies, to spend millions on advertising for a

cause which, because only one main party believes in it, is identifiably helpful to that party in an election campaign.

Public funding also has its powerful opponents, inside and outside the Government. One ground for opposition is the strong belief that taxpayers would object to paying for the upkeep of party politics. Another is that it could fossilise political parties, accentuating the historic relative fall in individual membership, and making them even more sclerotic organisations than they are already. And a third, which worries some in the Labour Party, is that it will spell the end of the final institutional link between party and the trade unions.

All these objections, however, are worth a little more examination than they have had so far. Certainly it seems a bit risky to expect the public to cough up for their politicians, who enjoy, with journalists, lower popular esteem than any occupational group including estate agents. On the other hand the public also don't much like money being thrown at politicians by the more self-

seeking elements of the private sector, as the elections of Taitton demonstrated when they chose Martin Bell in preference to Neil Hamilton. And as Vernon Bogdanor, professor of government, argued yesterday, the public do already pay for a lot of their politics through their taxes, whether through state subsidies for the Opposition, for public meeting-rooms and free delivery of election addresses, or through their BBC licence fees in providing party election broadcasts. There is even, incredibly, tax relief on donations to political parties. Secondly, if state funding were tied to party membership on a pound-for-pound basis - as some Tory politicians such as Brian Garel Jones have suggested in the past - it could have a galvanising effect on membership recruitment. Finally, while some may strongly oppose ending union funding, there are others, in trade unions, as well as in the party, who believe that the final break is in the interests of both. But even if the Neill committee doesn't come out in favour of a wholesale shift to state funding, the very minimum it will surely contemplate

is a strict cap on total expenditure - as well, probably, as on individual donations - with total disclosure. That means amounts as well as names held on a publicly inspectable register, continuously updated.

But the second lesson has to do with the Government's dealings with rich and powerful businessmen. Ever since the existence of the Ecclestone donation came to light the Tories have been severely inhibited in their attacks, because of the awe-inspiring level of their own indebtedness to Mr Ecclestone in the past. Perhaps that's why not a single Tory on Wednesday even asked the Prime Minister whether the donation was referred to Sir Patrick Neill only after the first questions from journalists, late in the day last Friday. As an opposition, therefore, it has been more tainted than the Government. But it's questionable, first whether Mr Ecclestone was a suitable donor for Labour in the first place, and secondly whether his advice on the dire consequences of applying the sponsorship ban was as disinterested as the Prime Minister - and perhaps Helmut

Kohl and Romano Prodi, who also both saw Mr Ecclestone appear to have assumed it was. Harnessing business support was an essential and entirely honourable part of what Blair brought to New Labour. But when it comes to party donations, or simply bending the Prime Ministerial ear in the warmth of the Downing Street study, there is a distinction between the broad and collective view of a group of company chairmen about where the national interest lies, say, on Europe, and the single-minded pursuit of commercial success by one interest or another.

Blair will have to show that he can face down business opinion on occasion, as well as how to it. He has already shown that he is capable of leading, as well as following, business opinion. The painstaking education of employers in the logic and justice of the national minimum wage was a stunning success. But there will be other fights. Blair has triumphed over the vested interests in his own party. But there are vested interests in business as well, whether or not they come with an open cheque book.

## Digest the news



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## Dive in Nikkei leaves Japanese banks in crisis

The crisis threatening Japan's banking system deepened yesterday, with experts predicting the country's government might have to mount a rescue. And as one big American bank reported huge trading losses due to the recent financial market turmoil, Alan Greenspan said the US should be ready to help bail out Asia. Dione Coyle, Economics Editor, reports.

The fear that many of Japan's banks are near to collapse as a result of diving share prices has led to a ballooning in the so-called "Japan premium" in recent days. To borrow in the international interbank market, Japanese banks are having to pay up to three-eighths of a percentage point more than American banks for money, it was reported in Tokyo yesterday.

The ratings agency IBCA announced that it was downgrading the already low ratings for three banks, Fuji, Industrial Bank of Japan and Sakura. Another three, Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank, Sanwa and Sumitomo, were placed on a negative "rating watch". David Marshall, IBCA's Asia-Pacific director, said: "The Japanese banks are extraordinarily weak." The risk that they would default was negligible thanks to Ministry of Finance guarantees, he said, but the low individual ratings assigned to the banks reflected their dismal financial condition.

"At some point the government would have to step in with an explicit guarantee of the banking system," Mr Marshall said.

The sharp fall in the Nikkei index, now approaching 15,000 compared with 21,000 in July when the Asian turmoil started, is the source of the banks' solvency problems. Many have invested two or three times their share capital in the stock market, so a 20 per cent fall in the Nikkei translates into a 40 per cent or bigger drop in their own capital. A level of 15,000 for the index is extremely worrying, while 14,000 is crisis-level. "It is a problem for absolutely all of them," said IBCA's Mr Marshall.

The widespread concern about the system's fragility was reflected in the increased premium being demanded of Japanese banks borrowing funds in currencies other than yen yesterday. Some were being charged 38 basis points above the 5.75 per cent interbank rate paid by big American or European banks. Stephen Lewis, of London Bond Broking, said: "This is a very clear guide to what banks in the market really think about whether there is systemic risk in Japan."

The Japan premium first appeared in 1995 when the scale of the banks' bad property loans emerged. It re-opened last week and has increased sharply this week.

Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve Board chairman, indicated yesterday that America should stand ready to stabilise the Asian financial crisis. Having already helped by not raising US interest rates on Wednesday, despite clear signs of an overheating domestic economy, he said: "It is in the interest of the United States and other nations around the world to encourage appropriate policy adjustments and, where required, provide temporary financial assistance."

The Fed chairman's comments came as Chase Manhattan reported a \$160m (£94m) before-tax trading loss in October. It said this was due to "unusually volatile and adverse" conditions, especially in emerging markets. Chase has a big presence in Latin America. Mr Greenspan also warned yesterday that the US economy would be affected by the turmoil in Japan and South-east Asia. He said: "To date the direct impact of these developments on the US economy has been modest, but it can be expected not to be negligible."

Heavy buying by Japanese pension funds helped prop up the Nikkei yesterday. It ended just 7 points lower at 15,427.27, but had plummeted to as low as 15,083.22 earlier. Further declines are expected.

Hong Kong staged a slight recovery, the Hang Seng index rising 113 points to 9,720.78.

Shares in London and New York were little changed yesterday. The FTSE 100 fell 9 points to 4,711, while the Dow Jones was 26 points up at 7,427.35 by midday.

## Revealed - what Credit Suisse really thinks about BZW



Under the City's glare: Credit Suisse's London headquarters building as seen from the offices of 'The Independent' last night. Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

'The Independent' was yesterday able to listen in to a highly confidential global video conference held for Credit Suisse First Boston's managing directors in London, New York and Hong Kong to discuss and celebrate the acquisition of BZW's equities and investment banking business on Wednesday. John Wilcock reports.

Merely by quoting "Project \*\*\*\*\*" to a telephone operator yesterday, 'The Independent' was able to access a private video conference for CSFB's top brass, during which they gloried in the acquisition of BZW's equities and investment banking divisions this week for a paltry £100m.

During the half-hour conference they forecast mass sackings in the London-based bank's back office activities, and further redundancies among some of the investment bankers where they overlapped with CSFB.

A UK executive boasted of the "carrot-and-stick" methods CSFB was using to get BZW employees to sign up for the Swiss bank. "Every top manager has signed as well as 200 top people," the UK director said. The "staff retention plan" operated by CSFB offered them 3 years vesting stock in CSFB as the carrot, and the stick was represented by lengthy non-competition clauses.

Allan Wheat, chief operating officer of CSFB, chimed in from New York, answering another director's question as to why the bank had not bought the Asian and Australian bits of BZW, as it had originally offered to do. Mr Wheat explained that the Asian operations were for the most part start-ups which were not profitable, that there were too many locations to cover. Asia was "too big a bite for us". Specifically, Mr Wheat said, BZW's Japan business was "a loser".

"We haven't anyone to send there." Then to raucous laughter from his fellow directors, Mr Wheat added: "I don't know anyone I dislike enough to send there." He concluded: "We chicken out on that."

Back in London, a UK-based director said that for the £100m paid to Barclays, CSFB is getting £150m out assets, while the staff retention plan will cost £50m. "No goodwill [was paid for] in this transaction," the director said. He added: "We will keep [BZW's] space in the Barclays building - we will rent space from them on fairly cheap terms."

The integration of the two banks will be "very complex," said the director. It will involve a charge from earnings of £100m after tax, which will be taken as an extraordinary charge, "so the P&L doesn't suffer, and savings flow directly to the bottom line". He added: "The net cost to us [of the acquisition] will be £175m."

We're taking about 800 front office people," he said, while the number of information technology and back office people to be kept on was under negotiation. CSFB wants to take "obviously as few as possible," he added. "We will probably take on a few hundred."

Mr Wheat said that at a recent internal conference in Miami, the bank's top brass had pondered the need to expand beyond its core strengths, fixed income and derivatives, as well as the need to bolster its activities in Europe and the UK, where "we kinda lack critical mass".

BZW will almost perfectly complement some of these weak areas, he said. For instance, BZW's research team will increase the number of UK companies covered by the bank by more than 400, he said. Mr Wheat then said that the original figure had been put down as nearly 450 companies, but he had not wanted to admit how few companies CSFB already covered in London - to a barrage of laughter from his fellow directors. He then ducked naming a precise figure for how many BZW people would be fired. He said: "To be very honest we've been trying to recruit their investment bankers for years - particularly those recruited over the last year. There will be some redundancies - but the business compliments it [CSFB] very well."

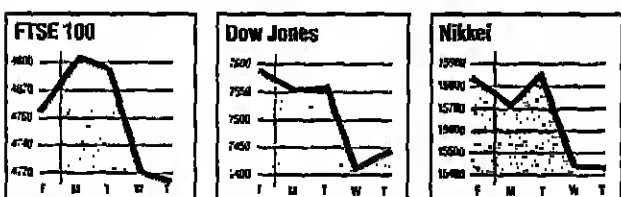
One British questioner asked why two American investment banks, Donaldson Lufkin Jenrette (DLJ) and Bankers Trust, walked away from table in the final stages of the battle for BZW.

Mr Wheat said: "DLJ has about 20 or 40 people in Europe - period." He added that the original deal offered by Martin Taylor, chief executive at Barclays, had been "all or nothing". DLJ had concluded that "this thing is just too big a bite". Bankers Trust dropped out of the bidding because, Mr Wheat said, it was "not viewed as a preferred employer [by BZW's] employees."

Commerzbank was extremely interested, he said, but the employees didn't want to be employed by Commerzbank or ING, "so that was the end of that," he said. "Bankers Trust is now going after NatWest."

And so, the conference drew to a close, and a great British name in investment banking disappeared into the history books.

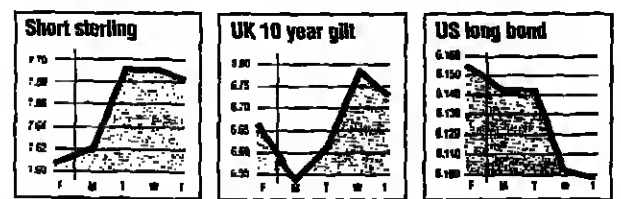
### STOCK MARKETS



Indices

Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	4711.00	-9.40	-0.20	5367.30	3892.70	3.70
FTSE 250	4563.30	-17.80	-0.39	4963.80	4321.80	3.55
FTSE 350	2282.50	-5.40	-0.24	2570.50	1935.70	3.67
FTSE All Share	2238.43	-5.15	-0.23	2507.68	1935.55	3.64
FTSE SmallCap	2288.6	-3.20	-0.14	2407.40	2127.50	3.26
FTSE Realindex	1251.8	-2.70	-0.22	1348.50	1198.70	3.40
FTSE AIM	985.3	0.20	0.02	1138.00	965.90	1.94
Dow Jones	7427.35	+17.50	+0.24	8284.00	6226.00	1.35
Nikkei	15427.27	-7.00	-0.05	21460.27	15384.05	1.90
Hang Seng	9720.78	112.87	1.16	16820.31	8775.88	4.12
Dax	3704.28	45.02	1.23	4459.88	2756.11	2.15

### INTEREST RATES



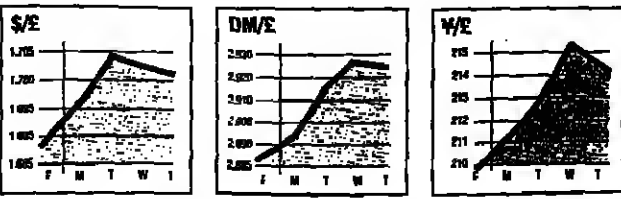
Money Market Rates

Index	3 month	1 yr	1 yr	1 yr	1 yr	1 yr	1 yr	1 yr
UK	7.71	1.33	2.84	1.05	0.70	0.60	0.60	1.21
US	5.88	0.38	0.07	0.34	5.82	6.38	6.07	1.35
Japan	0.43	-0.05	0.51	-0.14	1.82	-0.94	2.41	-1.00
Germany	3.76	0.58	4.17	0.87	5.62	-0.20	6.22	-0.49

### MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Price (p)	Chg (p)	% Chg	Falls	Price (p)	Chg (p)	% Chg
Coil Telecom	561.50	24.50	4.56	RJB Mining	165.00	-15.00	-8.33
Glaxo	183.00	7.50	4.27	Danka Bus Sys	544.00	-32.00	-5.56
Pilkington	138.50	5.50	4.20	Burmah Castrol	1042.00	-53.00	-5.11
Orange	233.00	5.00	4.17	BOC Group	1009	-51	-4.34

### CURRENCIES



Pound

Index	at 5pm	Change	1 yr	at 5pm	Change	1 yr
Dollar	1.7018	-0.37c	1.6608	Startling	0.5876	+0.13c
D-Mark	2.9259	-1.49c	2.5041	D-Mark	1.7189	-0.33c
Yen	214.77	-40.46	185.77	Yen	128.21	+10.14
Euro	103.90	-0.50	97.90	Euro	105.80	+0.10

### OTHER INDICATORS

Index	at 5pm	Change	1 yr	at 5pm	Change	1 yr
Brent Oil (b)	19.26	0.26	22.96	GDP	114.00	3.90
Gold (S)	307.55	0.30	383.10	RPI	159.50	3.7
Silver (S)	5.02	0.08	4.90	Base Rates	7.25	8.00

www.bloomberg.com source: Bloomberg

## Railtrack to cut 1,000 managers' jobs BAe and Rolls win £400m launch aid for new jets

Railtrack is to sweep away 1,000 jobs over the next two years, many of them in management positions, after concluding that its present organisational structure is unable to cope with the demands on the rail network. Michael Harrison examines how Sir Bob Horton, chairman, is getting to grips with the bureaucracy inherited from the old BR.

The cutbacks are the equivalent to 10 per cent of Railtrack's 10,600-strong workforce and will see whole layers of management abolished. So far this year 300 jobs have disappeared, many of them managerial posts,

### Molins issues fifth profits warning this year

Molins, the packaging and cigarette machines group, yesterday announced its fifth profits warning this year and said that it was cutting around 500 jobs in the UK in response to a falling demand from the key Chinese market. Shares in the company, which have slumped from over 900p at the start of the year, fell another 72.5p yesterday to 327.5p, a five-year low.

Peter Harrison, chief executive, said that previously strong demand from China, where Molins supplies rolling machines to the huge state tobacco industry, had showed no sign of resuming and orders previously in the bag continued to be delayed. As a result the company is cutting a quarter of its 2,000 workforce in tobacco machinery over the next three months, most in the UK from its High Wycombe factory.

The news is the latest in a horrendous year for the company. In July Molins was forced to reveal that accounting irregularities at its US corrugated packaging business were larger than expected and in September it was forced to retract a July statement that the future of its tobacco machinery business was "encouraging". Asked whether shareholders were putting pressure on management, Mr Harrison said: "No one had been bold enough to ask about my position."

He said the restructuring, which involves asset write-downs, would cost £16m in the second half on top of £1.5m restructuring charge in the first half and £13m provision to cover the accounting irregularities. As a result, he said, profits for the second half of the year would be lower than the first half.

Mr Harrison who has threatened to sue KPMG, its former auditors, over the irregularities which took place over 10 years said Molins was still in talks with KPMG.

— Sameena Ahmad  
Investment column, page 24

and the target is to reduce manning at a rate of 500 a year. Two entire layers of management have already been stripped out of Railtrack's property division and its engineering and production division as part of the restructuring, which goes by the name of the C-Change programme. Sir Bob said Railtrack could not expect to demand efficiency improvements from its suppliers such as the infrastructure and track renewal companies, it did not tackle its own over-bureaucratic structure.

The changes were also vital if Railtrack were to meet its £10bn investment programme in the rail network and respond to the challenge set down by the Rail Regulator, John Swift.

Gerald Corbett, Railtrack's new chief executive, said: "Future challenges placed on us by the growth in the network, the demands of our customers, the

demands of other stakeholders and the scale of our investment programme are such that as currently configured, we would be unable to cope."

"We have to increase the responsiveness of our organisation and push decision making downwards and outwards to where the customers are. The organisation is too rigid, too hierarchical. We tend to look inwards and upwards, not outwards."

He was speaking as Railtrack announced a 10 per cent rise in pre-tax profits in the first half of the year to £190m, an 8 per cent increase in the dividend and a 38 per cent increase in investment to £520m.

Costs involved in the redundancy programme and tackling the millennium computer timebomb were £18m in the first six months and Mr Corbett said he expected the Year 2000 date change to cost it £20m-£40m in total.

After the harsh criticism meted out in the past by the regulator and the Government over its investment performance, Railtrack said spending would be on target by the turn of the year.

Investment on station improvements would reach £150m by the end of the year while spending on track renewal was now well ahead of the programme agreed with the regulator.

In contrast to his caustic comments at the time of Railtrack's final results announcement last summer, Mr Swift was almost complimentary of the company's performance, saying that its interim results showed improvements were under way.

Mr Corbett cast doubt on whether Railtrack would take part in the high-speed Channel Tunnel Rail Link, saying it was cautious about the project, which is expected to cost £3.5bn-£4bn before financing costs.

### South West Water warns of possible £7m setback in Italy

South West Water yesterday became the latest utility to run into trouble overseas after warning that it may have to take a £7m charge to withdraw from a joint venture in Italy.

The group said it was now reviewing its investment in Siba, a 50:50 venture formed two years ago with the Milan-based contractor group Emi, to bid for local water and sewerage franchises.

South West said that because of public spending cuts in Italy - the result of the Italian government's attempts to qualify for economic and monetary union - the joint venture company had not progressed as hoped, picking up only two contracts, one of which was embroiled in funding problems.

A decision on whether to withdraw from the venture is expected in the next two months. South West lost £300,000 in the first half of the year on Siba and would have to write-off £1.1m of direct investment and a further £6m of goodwill if it withdraws altogether.

News of the setback came as South West announced unchanged profits of £68m for the first half, an 8 per cent increase in the interim dividend and forecast that water restrictions were unlikely next summer because of its investment programme to improve supplies. Its reservoirs are 63 per cent full compared with 50 per cent this time last year. After paying a windfall tax of £104m, South West reported an after-tax loss of £40m.

The company also confirmed that it is paying £450,000 to take a 50 per cent stake in Enviro-Logic, an independent consultancy with applications to develop 29 water supply schemes around the country.

Ken Harvey, the chairman who is still looking for a chief executive to hand over responsibilities to, described the investment as an important development which South West intended to pursue with vigour.

## BAe and Rolls win £400m launch aid for new jets

The Government is granting Rolls-Royce and British Aerospace £400m in launch aid to build engines and airframes for a new generation of Airbus and Boeing jets. Michael Harrison reports on the most ambitious public-private partnership yet between the Blair administration and industry.

Rolls-Royce last night announced that it was receiving £200m in launch investment from the Department of Trade and Industry to develop three new versions of its Trent engine for a range of Boeing and Airbus jets.

This is the first launch aid the company has received since 1986 and will be repaid through a levy on sales of the aircraft, which Rolls-Royce expects to reach £50bn over the next 20 years.

Separately, British Aerospace is expected to be told shortly that it will receive about £200m to develop wings for a new stretched version of the Airbus A340 long-range jet. The A340-500/600 series will carry 375 passengers - enabling it to compete directly with some versions of the Boeing jumbo jet.

John Battle, the Minister for Science, Energy and Industry, described the investment in Rolls-Royce as a "partnership with industry and an investment in the future."

In effect the Government will become a risk and revenue sharing partner in the three new Trent programmes, taking a 20 per cent stake in return for a share in future profits. Rolls has already contracted 20 per cent of the Trent 700 and 800 programme to overseas companies.

The three new engines are the Trent 500, which will power the stretched Airbus, the Trent 8100, which will power a long-range version of the Boeing 777 and the Trent 600, which will power larger versions of the Boeing 747 and 767.

Sir Ralph Robins, Rolls chairman, said the three new engines would take it into a whole new area of the aircraft market, enabling it to capture more than 40 per cent of potential sales. The alternative, he said, would have been to invite commercial risk and revenue sharing partners on to the Trent programme but this would have meant jobs and work going abroad.

Rolls received launch aid for the original RB211 engine, the Spey and the V2500 but significantly, the last government decided not to fund the launch of the Trent programme. Sales of the Trent 700 and 800 are now \$7bn (£4bn) and it has captured 38 per cent of the market to power the two wide-bodied jets, the 777 and the Airbus A330.

Rolls is repaying about £30m of launch aid to the Government each year while total repayments, including those made to BAe, are due to total £500m over the next five years as aircraft like the Airbus A320 begin to pay their way.

The stretched A340 is costing BAe and its three Airbus partners about £2bn to develop. BAe is limited to a maximum launch aid of 33 per cent of its share of the costs.

Both BAe and Rolls will also seek launch investment from the Government for the 600-seat double-decker super jumbo, the A3XX, which Airbus hopes to launch before the end of the century. The aircraft would cost at least \$8bn to develop, with some estimates putting it as high as \$20bn, and is unlikely to enter service until 2005 at the earliest.

Outlook, page 24





## OUTLOOK ON GOVERNMENT AID FOR ROLLS- ROYCE, BUSINESS AND POLITICS, AND THE CBI'S PROBLEM WITH EMU

# Call it anything, but please don't call it aid

Please don't call it subsidy or state support and don't even refer to it as launch aid. Now that New Labour has established itself as the natural party of business it invests in partnerships with industry on a risk and revenue sharing basis. Whatever fancy term you choose to dress it up, £200m of Government money winged its way from Whitehall yesterday and the lucky recipient was Rolls-Royce, which will use the money to help fund three new Trent engines for the next generation of Airbus and Boeing jets. Stand by for another £200m to be dispensed any day now to another worthy cause, British Aerospace, which is also on the new Airbus programme.

Repayable launch aid is hardly new - it is the way Europe competes with the billions of dollars pumped into the US aerospace industry through indirect support for defence and space programmes. Nevertheless, yesterday's deal is something of a groundbreaker for Rolls and a feather in the cap of its chairman Sir Ralph Robins.

When the original Trent programme, Rolls most important engine development since the original RB211, was launched a decade ago Mrs Thatcher turned up her nose. She balked at the cost and Rolls' prospects in a market dominated by GE and Pratt & Whitney of the USA and refused to cough up a penny. Rolls was forced instead to go cap in hand to the Japanese, offering them a slice of the action in return for some upfront stake money.

That has turned out to be a poor decision. The first two versions of the Trent

have scooped nearly 40 per cent of the market for engines to power the latest wide-bodied Airbus and Boeing jets and Rolls reckons it can capture a similar share with its latest versions.

In fact earlier launch aid for other programmes is now turning into something of a cash cow for the Treasury. Rolls is contributing £30m a year while total repayments over the next few years will swell the Exchequer's coffers by some £500m. Douhless BAC and Rolls will employ these arguments when they go for the big one - £700m in launch aid for the 600-seat double-decker Airbus super jumbo, the A3XX. John Battle, the industry minister, will need more evidence that a market exists for that project.

## An explosive mix with politics

Launch aid is one thing, but in most cases business and Government just don't mix, as Labour, brimming full of naive enthusiasm for a genuine partnership with business when it first came into office, is discovering to its cost.

Most businessmen or companies when they donate money to political parties expect no more than to influence policy in a way which is generally favourable to the business environment. As much as anything, the purpose is that of getting their voice heard. On rare occasions, the motive is one of genuine altruism. But a sizeable minority expect rather more than that and this is where the difficulties begin. In

many instances the purpose is to influence policy in favour of a particular commercial interest or against another.

That is certainly what the brewing lobby attempted to do with the last government, with some success. And it may have been Bernie Ecclestone's intention with his pre-election gift to the Labour Party and his more recent offer of financial assistance, though he denies this. In extreme cases, and we do not suggest Mr Ecclestone is one of these, the purpose is the overtly corrupt one of winning favours and contracts.

Perhaps the most surprising thing about the Ecclestone case is that Labour should have fallen into such a well signposted trap. For the roots of Labour's naivety on all this look back to the Labour Party conference of two years ago. This was the occasion of the famous deal launched with much fanfare between British Telecom and Tony Blair, under which BT would be released early from the ban on carrying broadcast entertainment across its network in return for wiring schools and other public institutions to the super highway.

In practice this turned out to be a relatively harmless sweetheart deal of limited significance. But it none the less established the principle that New Labour is prepared to grant commercial favours in return for something back.

This is "you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours" politics and Mr Blair should not be surprised if some people think it corrupt. The purpose of Government is to establish a level playing field of public policy for business to operate

in, not to favour one set of commercial interests over another or to be in any way beholden to these interests. For every businessman that Government favours, there will be another that the favour damages. Labour seems to be learning about this rather obvious truism the hard way.

## Is the CBI the voice of business?

If the Confederation of British Industry thought this week's annual conference was dominated to an excessive degree by the single currency debate, then just wait until the great and the good of business convene in Birmingham in a year's time.

By then EMU will be a mere two months away. The hysterical euro polarisation of the last week may, with the benefit of hindsight, be remembered more like a sixth form balloon debate. By then, we will know who is in and who is out of EMU and the exchange rates at which the first wave will enter. The Blair administration will be staying out of Europe's most ambitious project while simultaneously leading from the front and the CBI will probably have produced another survey of its membership showing still more support for the single currency.

Unfortunately, we will not know whether business support has actually increased because the CBI, cleverly, never asks the same question twice, preferring instead to ask the question likely to illicit the biggest yes vote. And we will still not know whether the CBI really does speak

for the broad sweep of British business or merely the big multinational battalions with little geographic allegiance to Britain.

For all the CBI's unwavering support for a single currency, the fact is its membership has not lashed itself to the euro mast with quite the same enthusiasm as the club itself. The longest and the loudest ovation this week was reserved not for Gordon Brown or Niall FitzGerald, both euro enthusiasts.

Actually it went to William Hague. Either the euro lemmings secretly agree with much of the Tory leader's prognosis on EMU or they must have a real liking for self flagellation. The euro engenders real dislike among a significant swathe of the business community for whom EMU signifies higher labour and social costs as much as lower transaction charges. Because the CBI is by its very nature corporatist in its approach, it finds it difficult to reflect these nuances and shades of opinion. The same is true whether it is speaking as the voice of British business on working hours or green taxes or even late payment for that matter.

Martin Taylor, the chief executive of Barclays, summed it up best when he said the choice facing business was to decide whether the economic risks of joining EMU were outweighed by the political risks of remaining outside. Between now and next November, the choice facing many company executives will be to decide whether to stay with an organisation that is bound to misrepresent some of them on one of the most fundamental economic and political decisions this century.

## Britain beats off German and US competition in bid to produce 'baby' Jaguar

Agreement has been reached to keep the production of all Jaguar cars in Britain. Barrie Gement, Labour Editor, finds unions expressing confidence that the new "mini-jag" will be made on Merseyside.

The Ford plant at Halewood has been chosen to manufacture the new "baby" Jaguar as part of an understanding reached by union leaders, it emerged yesterday. The Merseyside complex has beaten off bids from rival Ford sites in Germany and the USA to make the new model, union officials have been told.

Final decisions will have to be made by the US-based Ford Motor Company, which bought Jaguar in 1989, but motor industry unions are confident that Halewood will be chosen. It is understood that the boards of both Jaguar and Ford in Britain are behind the Halewood option and it is thought that the ultimate owners in America will rubber-stamp the decision. The American directors met yesterday at their headquarters in Dearborn, near Detroit, but it was unclear whether the Jaguar project was on the agenda.

As part of the agreement struck by unions, management has issued guarantees about the future of existing Jaguar plants

in Coventry and Castle Bromwich to meet the concerns of workers there. The Transport and General Workers' Union has been told that existing models will continue to be built in the Midlands towns and that the plants will also manufacture future Jaguar marques. It was accepted, however, that Halewood was the only plant owned by Ford in the UK with sufficient spare capacity to take the new model, which is intended to compete with the BMW 3 series.

Unions concluded a deal with Ford earlier this year which included a promise that a "multi-purpose" vehicle would be built at Halewood and it is understood that the new mini Jaguar, codenamed X400, will be manufactured on Merseyside instead.

Some industry sources believe the "Ford Halewood" name - with all its past associations with union militancy - might be ditched as part of an attempt to make the project more consumer-friendly.

Tony Woodley, chief negotiator for the motor industry at the transport union, said that the prospect of the "quintessentially British" car being built overseas may have been averted.

"We believe there is a genuine business logic that the new baby Jaguar should be built in this country. We find it inexplicable and I'm sure the Jaguar-buying public would find it inexplicable if this

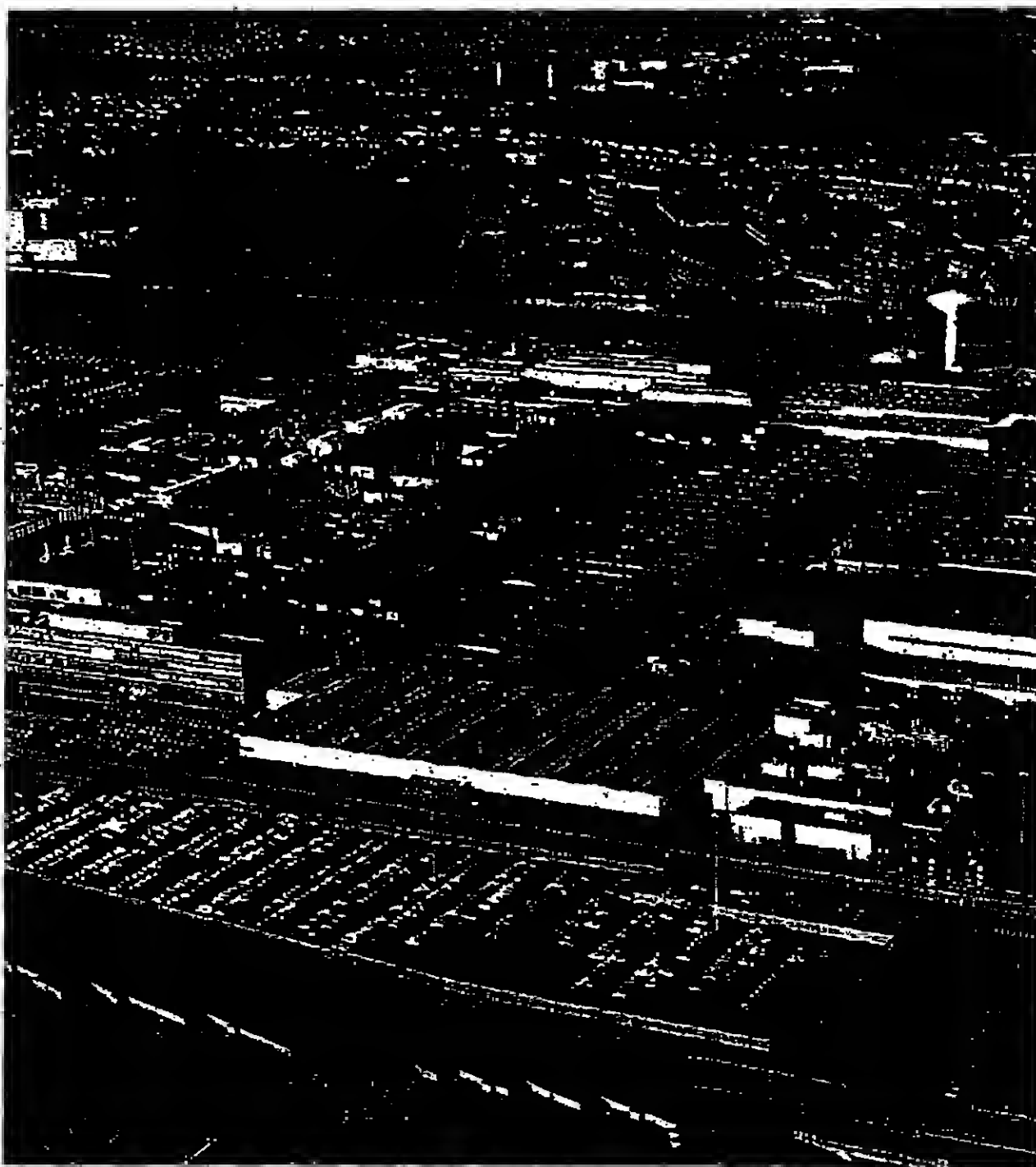
vehicle was to be built outside the country," Mr Woodley said. He warned, however, that the final decision would depend on the support the Government could offer. Officials at the Department of Trade and Industry insisted last night there had been no "formal" approach for financial aid under Regional Selective Assistance, but it is known the Government is well disposed towards the project.

Mr Woodley said: "The quality and efficiency of the Halewood plant, coupled with its capacity, leads me to believe that Britain and Halewood should win the day on business logic. It would be in nobody's interests for Jaguar to move outside the UK."

An official statement from Ford said that a study team from Jaguar was still evaluating the potential production sites in Britain, Europe and America. While the evaluation included a review of Halewood, it was too early to speculate on the final outcome of the review.

The statement conceded that management had been in discussions with unions over the implications if Halewood was the choice. "The company has reached a good measure of agreement, but naturally details are still a matter between the company and the unions."

Ford has already backed heavy investment for its Jaguar subsidiary to build a second saloon, codenamed X200, at Castle Bromwich.



Home of the new 'Baby jag': Unions and management have agreed to production at the Halewood plant

## Liddell helps mutuals with rule on voting

Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, yesterday moved to help protect the mutual status of building societies by changing a key rule covering voting rights. Any building society that wants to shed its mutual status and become a bank can now only take a vote on conversion at a general meeting when it has 50 per cent of its members present.

The change from 20 to 50 per cent in the number of members required at a meeting makes it harder for "carpet-baggers" - investors who open building society accounts in the hope of netting windfall gains from conversion - to force building societies into demutualisation. Ms Liddell said: "Mutuality does have a future. And it is worth fighting for."

This rule change could also hamper plans by the Bank of Ireland, which bought Bristol & West for £600m back in February, to gobble up another UK building society. Maurice Keane, chief executive designate of the Bank of Ireland, said yesterday that he intended to "expand by acquisition into the UK building society market".

Ms Liddell's move was warmly received by the industry. "Britannia Building Society welcomes Helen Liddell's announcement," said Gerald Gregory, Britannia's director of mutuality and marketing.

Adrian Coles, Director-General of the Building Societies Association, said: "Building societies are delighted that the Government has shown such a strong commitment to mutuality. The decision to increase the turnout rate for building society conversions will help societies to continue to promote the benefits of mutuality to their members."

Several building societies, including Halifax and Northern Rock, have recently shed their mutual status and converted into banks. They awarded their members large windfall gains in the process.

According to Mr Keane, the ideal building society target for the Bank of Ireland would be located "in a similar geographic area" to Bristol & West. This would allow the Bank of Ireland to realise gains from rationalisation and to "get better value from advertising spend", he said.

Mr Keane's announcement coincided with the release yesterday of the Bank of Ireland's first-half figures. Pre-tax profits jumped 30 per cent to £171.75m (£154m) in the six months to September, ahead of expectations.

- Lea Paterson

## Capital Radio's £87m Virgin bid may fall foul of MMC advertising objections

Capital Radio may have to outsource Virgin Radio's advertising sales if the deal to merge the two groups is to get clearance from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, according to City sources. Cathy Newman assesses the chances of the merger going ahead, and the threat from a rival bid launched yesterday by Chris Evans, the DJ.

Capital is known to have spent some time discussing the effect of its £87m bid for Virgin on the London advertising market. According to City sources, the MMC investigation is likely to recommend that the Virgin and Capital advertising sales operations are kept separate in the interests of competition.

Capital's group chief executive, David Mansfield, would not comment yesterday on discussions with the MMC.

However, he confirmed that Capital's share of the advertising market would inevitably be one of the main points under scrutiny.

Mr Mansfield added that he expected the Department of Trade and Industry to pronounce on the merger early next year, some weeks later than expected.

Capital already has the biggest share of national radio advertising, with 35 per cent of the market. Virgin has a further 8 per cent.

Chris Evans, the celebrity DJ known as the "ginger whinger", has approached Virgin with a rival bid. Although Mr Evans is believed to be offering less than Capital, he is backed by Apas Partners, the venture capital company, and Virgin said yesterday it was taking the offer "seriously".

A Virgin Radio spokesman said Mr Evans' offer would enable Richard Branson to get

a foothold in British television. "The deal with Evans, which we're still not too clear about, involves a merger which would give Branson some control over Ginger [Productions, Mr Evans' broadcasting company]."

Mr Mansfield said he was "not concerned" about the rival bid, and added that Mr Branson had "a lot of respect" for Capital. "He wants to join us round the Capital table," he said.

Capital is unlikely to get into an auction with Mr Evans, and is keen to tie up an exclusive agreement with Virgin in order to foil the DJ's counter offer.

The news coincided with changes to the terms of Capital's offer for Virgin, although Capital denied yesterday that the two events were related. The alterations, prompted by the decline in Capital's share-price, will see Mr Branson's shareholding in the company capped at under 10 per cent, and - although the £87m price remains fixed - more cash than shares will be offered in order

to avoid diluting earnings per share.

Mr Mansfield, who became chief executive after Richard Eyre left for ITV Network Centre, yesterday reported headline profit before tax of £35m, up 9.2 per cent. The dividend increased 10 per cent to 13.75p.

He said that since the acquisition of the My Kinda Town restaurants business last year, Capital had evolved into a "music-based entertainment company".

He added that the Radio Café concept would be expanded, with many more in the London area and one each in Birmingham and Southampton. There is presently just one Radio Café in London's Leicester Square. Mr Mansfield sought to assuage City concerns about the expansion into catering with news that the development would be funded by restaurants disposals. Despite this, though, Capital's shares slid 11.5p to 472p.

Evans' bid for Virgin, page 3

## General Cable lobbies Brussels to complain about BSkyB charges for sport and films

General Cable yesterday met a representative from the European Commission to complain about the way in which BSkyB charges cable operators for sports and film channels. Despite having its arguments thrown out by the UK competition authorities, the cable industry is hoping to convince Brussels that BSkyB is acting anti-competitively.

EC sources say that General Cable, the UK's fourth largest quoted cable company, is hoping to halve the cost of buying one premium sports or film channel from BSkyB. The company has taken its grievances over the satellite broadcaster's programme supply terms to Brussels after attempts to get the UK competition authorities to intervene appear to have failed.

At the end of last year, the Office of Fair Trading cleared BSkyB's rate-card which determined the terms on which the company supplied programming to cable operators. The decision caused uproar in the cable industry.

Customers who receive pay-TV through a satellite dish pay £20.99 to receive BSkyB's basic channels and one premium sports or film channel. Cable operators pay BSkyB and other programmers around £17 for a similar package. Cable companies claim the discount is insufficient to allow them to make reasonable profits on their television businesses.

General Cable charges its customers around £27 for basic channels and one premium channel, thereby making £10 of profits. However, the high cost to subscribers will inhibit uptake of cable television, the company alleges.

General Cable declined to comment yesterday. However, last month the company denounced the way it was forced to "subsidise Mr Murdoch", and scaled back its involvement in cable television. Interim pre-tax losses of £25m this year resulted in General Cable raising its subscription prices and reducing the variety of television services on offer.

The company indicated at the time that it would only change its attitude to television if programme supply arrangements changed substantially. General Cable's confrontation with the EC appears to be a last-ditch attempt to overturn BSkyB's rate-card.

Although the OFT's approval of the existing rate-card at the end of last year angered cable companies, John Bridgeman, Director-general of the OFT, did make some concessions. Cable operators were, for example, given greater flexibility in what they were able to offer subscribers. However, BSkyB imposed financial penalties on cable operators buying inflexible packages of channels.

Cable companies were granted permission to offer both telephony and television in the early Nineties. The UK cable industry now makes most of its money from telephony because of the high cost of content and large number of customers failing to renew television subscriptions.

- Cathy Newman



## Businesses warned insurers will not cover IT timebomb

British businesses were yesterday warned that they face liabilities running into tens of billions of pounds if they fail to modify computer systems in time for the millennium. Andrew Verity reports that insurers cannot cover risks associated with failure to address the problem.

Taskforce 2000, the Government-funded group tasked with raising awareness of the millennium problem, warned that the cost to companies of failing to change computer systems would be far in excess of the estimated £30bn needed to fix the

problem before 31 December 1999.

Robert Guenier, executive director of Taskforce 2000, said: "Businesses are now in a burning building and one by one the safety ladders are being kicked from underneath them."

"Who can blame the insurance industry for taking this firm line after finally waking up to the fact that it may face a deluge of claims for losses arising from the millennium problem."

The warning followed an announcement by the Association of British Insurers, which represents more than 95 per cent of the insurance industry, that insurers would exclude year 2000 problems from policies.

The announcement cuts off a key escape-route for companies relying on commercial in-

surance to pay for the risk of their systems failing as a result of millennium-related deficiencies in their microprocessors.

Any system containing date-dependent electronic parts, including security systems, lifts, escalators, air conditioning, heating, and telephone exchanges - is likely to be affected by the millennium problem. This is likely to create huge legal liabilities.

When annual commercial insurance is renewed, all 1997 members will exclude year 2000 cover. The association is circulating a "model exclusion" which rules out claims on any loss caused directly or indirectly by a microchip that cannot process dates after 31 December 1999.

Insurers will place the exclusion in any new policies for

commercial risks which may be associated with the millennium problem - where microchips fail to distinguish between the year 2000 and the year 1900. They argue that insurance is designed to cover an unforeseeable event whereas the millennium problem is known and foreseeable.

Because commercial insurance is usually renewed every year, few companies will be able to claim when the new exclusion takes effect.

Insurance which covers the millennium problem does exist and is offered by providers such as Minet and AIG. However, companies must pass a tough test requiring them to show they are making every effort to deal with the millennium problem to gain cover.



John Hoerner (left) and Nigel Hall of Burton, the retail group, yesterday revealed that the total costs associated with the demerger of Debenhams will be £65m. Of the £55m related to the demerger itself, £14.6m will go on advisers fees, principally to Schroders

and ING Barings. The associated reorganisation of the Dorothy Perkins and Top Shop multiples business, now re-named Arcadia, will be £10.7m, including £4m for job losses. A prospectus on the Debenhams demerger will be issued next month.

Investment column, page 24

### IN BRIEF

#### BAA reports 8 per cent rise in passenger numbers

BAA said its seven UK airports handled 9.4 million passengers in October, representing an increase of 7.8 per cent on the same month last year. The company also released updated 10-year passenger traffic and capital expenditure forecasts for airports in the south-east of England. BAA forecasts that, above the level of its previous forecasts, an extra 7.6 million more passengers per annum will be using its London airports. It said this reflected growing underlying demand and confirmed the need for the proposed Terminal 5 to relieve increasing congestion at Heathrow and to maintain appropriate levels of customer service. No changes in the numbers of air transport movements have been assumed. Gatwick's forecasts have increased from 28.5 to 33 million passengers per annum in 2001/02 and from 31.8 to 38.5 million in 2006/07.

#### Pentex deal with Enron

Pentex Energy has struck a deal that will see Enron of the US providing up to £70m pounds of financing and taking a stake of around 11 per cent in the UK company. Enron, one of the world's largest integrated natural gas and electricity companies, will subscribe for 40 million new Pentex shares for 18.5p each to raise about £7.4m. The deal also includes a £18.8m pre-payment for a crude oil swap involving one third of Pentex's total UK oil production for the next eight years. Enron will also make available an eight-year, £44m loan. Pentex will use the cash to repay bank debt and develop its reserves and buy oil and gas assets. The company also plans to raise £5.4m by a one-for-10 rights issue at 18.5p per share.

#### Liberty family reject sale

The battle for control of the Liberty retail group took another twist yesterday when the founding Stewart-Liberty family and rebel shareholder, Bryan Myerson, said they would not accept any takeover bid ahead of a planned emergency general meeting. The two groups, which control 44 per cent of Liberty, said a "fire sale" was not in the best interests of shareholders. The Liberty board said the family was attempting to gain control without paying a premium. It will detail today its plans for the group and the date of the emergency meeting where the Stewart-Liberty family expect to oust the chairman, Denis Cassidy.

#### Cooper takeovers Menvier

Cooper Industries of the US launched an agreed £164.5m, 310p per share, cash takeover bid for Menvier-Swain Group. The two companies said the offer represented a premium of approximately 51.2 per cent to the closing middle market quotation of 205p per Menvier-Swain share on 10 November, the day before bid talks were announced. Cooper has received irrevocable undertakings to accept the offer from directors of Menvier-Swain and family interests representing approximately 13.4 per cent of the company's equity. H John Riley Jr, Cooper's chairman, said: "The acquisition of Menvier-Swain is another important step in our long-term strategy to enter new markets and extend the global reach of Cooper's Electrical Products segment. It is an exceptional opportunity to combine Menvier-Swain's strength in the European emergency lighting market with Cooper's existing activities."

#### Thorn sells Fona to MBO

Thorn, the struggling Radin Rentals retailer, has sold its Danish electronics group, Fona, to a management buy-out for £76m. Thorn will record an exceptional gain of £15m on the transaction. It will keep its DER rental operation in Denmark.

#### FKI disposes of auto group

FKI has agreed to sell its automotive group to Trident Automotive for £92.5m cash. The company expects to net £70m from the sale and will use the money to reduce borrowings. The disposed businesses comprise all of FKI's Automotive group except the Keeler Die Cast operation and the freehold of the land and buildings located at Kentwood Michigan, US.

#### COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Bank of Ireland (I)	- (-)	1251m (1193m)	33.5p (25.2p)	7.1p (6.1p)
Burton Group (F)	2.25m (2.00m)	122m (152m)	8.4p (7.8p)	3.4p (2.8p)
Canal Pharmaceuticals (F)	- (-)	-0.05m (-2.31m)	-0p (-18p)	nil (-)
Capital Radio (F)	86.1m (76.2m)	35.3m (22.0m)	32.1p (23.4p)	13.2p (12.5p)
Stewart Group (I)	- (-)	14.4m (5.28m)	13.5p (8.4p)	8p (8p)
Porter Chemicals (I)	39.5m (35.6m)	2.7m (2.3m)	1.74p (1.85p)	0.3p (0.25p)
Property Partnerships (I)	- (-)	1.01m (0.84m)	5.37p (7.81p)	3.1p (2.9p)
Railtrack (I)	1.23bn (1.20bn)	180m (173m)	2.6p (23p)	7.9p (7.3p)
Regalium Prope (I)	21.1m (11.4m)	1.93m (1.63m)	0.92p (1.23p)	0.475p (0.4p)
Savage Group (I)	244m (250m)	29.2m (30.2m)	8.4p (8.8p)	2.05p (1.82p)
South West Water (I)	187m (174m)	68.0m (68.0m)	-30.9p (49.5p)	13.2p (-)
Warner Howard (I)	12.1m (13.9m)	3.28m (3.96m)	9.22p (10.94p)	3.85p (3.5p)
Young & Co's Brewery (I)	39.8m (38.0m)	2.84m (2.48m)	14.07p (12.85p)	7.75p (7.35p)
(F) - First (I) - Interim (T) - Nine months				

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# Ruby awakening as the son rises

Ireland's champion amateur jockey has his first ride at Cheltenham this afternoon. He has a notable lineage, but fails to follow at least one family trait, reports Richard Edmondson

Ted Walsh is Mr Ireland, or Mr Irish racing at least. He is a raconteur, horse trader, former amateur riding champion, Festival-winning trainer and television commentator. It came as a profound surprise when Mary McAleese edged him

out of being Ireland's new President. Today at Cheltenham however there is evidence of Walsh's proudest posting as he proves himself a distinguished sire.

The family Walsh is represented for the first time by Ted's son, a godson to headline writers and a figure who could have inspired numbers by Johnny Cash and Kenny Rogers, a boy called Ruby.

This 18-year-old jockey is named after Ted's father, the last of 10 when the suspicion was his family was running out of Christian names. His birthday came on the feast of St Ru-

per, and so came the handle, later shortened to Ruby.

The trainer and horse dealer in Co Cork began Ted, who became a leader in the unpaid rid-

ing ranks and a scourge of weak-willed jumpers. Even today if you mention the name of Ted Walsh in a stable all of his heads duck down behind the doors of their boxes.

There is, however, more than one way to skin a horse and young Ruby has found a gossamer touch. Last year, he, too, became amateur champion of Ireland with 35 wins. This year he has already posted 25 and will almost certainly overtake Pop's record of 48. "He's been knocking round the yard all his life and he just has a natural feel for riding," Ted said yesterday. "I was maybe strong and aggressive, and while he has the same hunger, he is more polished. Someone like Richard Dunwoody would be his idol."

"He's a better jockey than I was now, but then that's not too hard for him. He's better but I don't know if he's as lucky as I was yet. He's definitely a lot more refined and modern-day than I was." This is just as well as Ted's technique owed much to the times when we used flints to start our fires.

"He's 5ft 10 and a scrum-half for the local rugby team," Walsh added. "His ambitions are to be a professional jockey, but nature will tell him whether that is to be. He's not growing up any more, but he's a tall chap like McCoy or Dunwoody and it all depends on if the flint out."

Much will also depend on how he performs on big horses and big races. Ruby has already been allowed on his father's Triumph Hurdle winner, Commanche Court, which is the equivalent of borrowing your Dad's car for the first time, and this afternoon at Prestbury Park he makes his British debut on Slaney Sauce in the Sporting Index Chase.

The nine-year-old will not be the most unfit horse in the field, but on this occasion he may have to give second best to Irish Stamp (next best 3.35), who ran a cracker behind Bertone at Ascot a fortnight ago. This cross-country course should hold no problems for Ferde Murphy's chaser as he has been in the more life-threatening war zone of the Velka Pardubicka.

There are lots of fancy names represented in the televised handicap hurdle, but the underdog I RECALL (nap 4.05) should go well. Opponents ends, too, for the indefatigable Indian Jockey (2.25) and Kendal Cavalier (3.00), who looked a bit on the Teletubbies side before his victorious Chepstow reappearance last month.

## HYPERION'S TV TIPS

four-horse race in which the hot favourite fell. The most likely result would be a surprise if the going remains on the fast side. Harry de Bromhead's runner has class and deserves a change of luck.

4.05: Another puzzling betting medium, with little evidence on which to compare the merits of the Irish-trained runners with the home contingent. Perhaps a small each-way stake on the heavily weighted REACHER TIE CLOUDS is best. This five-year-old should be staying on well at the finish.

would be a worthy favourite. Giving weight away to all, however, is BISHOPS HALL, who could spring a surprise if the going remains on the fast side. Harry de Bromhead's runner has class and deserves a change of luck.

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# World-wide ban imposed upon Dettori

As well as the glamour, there has been misbehaviour for Frankie Dettori this year, a signing season which culminated in a 21-day blanket suspension yesterday, the first of its kind imposed by the Jockey Club.

Dettori will now miss the lucrative Japan Cup, which he collected on Singpiel 12 months ago, as well as the Su-

per Jockeys' Challenge, another bank manager-pleasing event, also in Japan. The last seven days of his ban have been deferred until the start of the next flat turf season and will be activated only if he transgresses in the interim.

Dettori's latest crime was of careless riding at Goodwood. It was his sixth offence of the sea-

son and a suspension of 21 days was almost inevitable.

It was, however, the first time a punishment had been extended to racing outside Britain. Luca Cumani's Moons will now need a new partner in Tokyo a week tomorrow. "I'm not just missing the Japan Cup but the Super Jockeys' championship the week after when

I was meant to represent England," the jockey said yesterday. "It's a huge payday for us and something I always like to do."

"I was planning to ride on the all-weather because I was going to Japan and I wanted to keep fit, but obviously that's not going to be possible now."

"Let's not forget that racing is a very competitive sport and

when you go at 40mph you make a split decision and sometimes you make a slight error."

"I don't complain at all about the system, but I just feel a little bit unfortunate it's happened to me this year. Let's hope I can keep a clean sheet next year and win some good races."

— Richard Edmondson

## SOUTHWELL (AW)

HYPERION  
12.05 Bold Aristocrat 12.35 Ramseye Hope 1.05 Cape Hope 1.40 Ma Vie Pourque 2.15 Pas De Memoires 2.45 Oscar 3.20 Blue Zola 3.55 Paradise Navy

GOING: Standard  
STALLS: 25, 1st - 2nd; 2nd - 3rd; 3rd - 4th; 4th - 5th; 5th - 6th; 6th - 7th; 7th - 8th; 8th - 9th; 9th - 10th; 10th - 11th; 11th - 12th; 12th - 13th; 13th - 14th; 14th - 15th; 15th - 16th; 16th - 17th; 17th - 18th; 18th - 19th; 19th - 20th; 20th - 21st; 21st - 22nd; 22nd - 23rd; 23rd - 24th; 24th - 25th; 25th - 26th; 26th - 27th; 27th - 28th; 28th - 29th; 29th - 30th; 30th - 31st; 31st - 32nd; 32nd - 33rd; 33rd - 34th; 34th - 35th; 35th - 36th; 36th - 37th; 37th - 38th; 38th - 39th; 39th - 40th; 40th - 41st; 41st - 42nd; 42nd - 43rd; 43rd - 44th; 44th - 45th; 45th - 46th; 46th - 47th; 47th - 48th; 48th - 49th; 49th - 50th; 50th - 51st; 51st - 52nd; 52nd - 53rd; 53rd - 54th; 54th - 55th; 55th - 56th; 56th - 57th; 57th - 58th; 58th - 59th; 59th - 60th; 60th - 61st; 61st - 62nd; 62nd - 63rd; 63rd - 64th; 64th - 65th; 65th - 66th; 66th - 67th; 67th - 68th; 68th - 69th; 69th - 70th; 70th - 71st; 71st - 72nd; 72nd - 73rd; 73rd - 74th; 74th - 75th; 75th - 76th; 76th - 77th; 77th - 78th; 78th - 79th; 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## Striking gaps in the French preparations

With just over six months to go before they host the 1998 World Cup finals, France appear strong in all departments - except one.

Phil Show on the continuing search for a Gallic goalscorer.

Saint-Etienne was once Napoleon's arsenal and nowadays manufactures tanks. In symbolic terms, it seemed the ideal setting for France to discover fresh firepower ahead of the World Cup finals. Instead, Wednesday's flattering victory over Scotland provided another damp squib for Aimé Jacquet's team.

As the French remember fondly from their triumph in the European Championships of 1984, host nations tend to fare well in major tournaments. Viewed in a purely statistical light, France appear to be on course to maintain that tradition next summer. They have now lost just two of their 39 matches under Jacquet, with only England winning in the last 20 games on French soil.

The facts mask worrying signs, however, especially in the striking department. Having called up the heavy artillery in the shape of the two leading scorers in domestic football, Stéphane Guivarch and Lillan Laslandes, Jacquet must have been disconcerted to find that neither was sufficiently sharp to trouble unduly a Scottish defence lacking its linchpin, Colin Hendry.

It took a full-back, Pierre Laigle, to score France's first, with a generous assist from the Scotland goalkeeper Neil Sullivan. Gordon Durie equalised immediately and might have had a hat-trick before Laigle was fouled in the penalty area. Youri Djorkaeff scored from the spot to secure a repeat of last month's similarly unconvincing defeat of South Africa.

A local crowd weaned on Michel Platini and "les Verts" of Saint-Etienne, who reached the European Cup final 21 years ago, were not won over. When the final whistle sounded, they made their displeasure painfully apparent.

Winning, it appears, is not enough in itself for France, although priorities are liable to change entirely once the rest of the planet arrives in June. Jacquet may well have been right when he said: "Nobody will complain if we win the World Cup final 1-0."

Yet the French look no more menacing or unpredictable in attack than during Euro 96, when feebleness in front of goal cost them dear. Not only did they fail

to score in 120 minutes against a modestly equipped Czech Republic in the semi-final, but they could not beat them on penalties either.

That the problem persists can be gauged from the demands for the recall of Jean-Pierre Papin, who was to Gerard Houllier's regime what Gary Lineker was to Bobby Robson's. Now pushing 34, Papin is partnering Laslandes at Bordeaux. Nicolas Quédec, of Espanyol, is a more plausible candidate, but the likelihood is that France will go into the finals with an unproven strike force.

The biggest redeeming feature of the showing against Scotland was the form of Zinedine Zidane. Despite being followed everywhere by Billy McKinlay, the Juventus playmaker demonstrated much of the cunning, vision and expertise on set-pieces that persuaded Jacquet he could afford to ditch Eric Cantona.

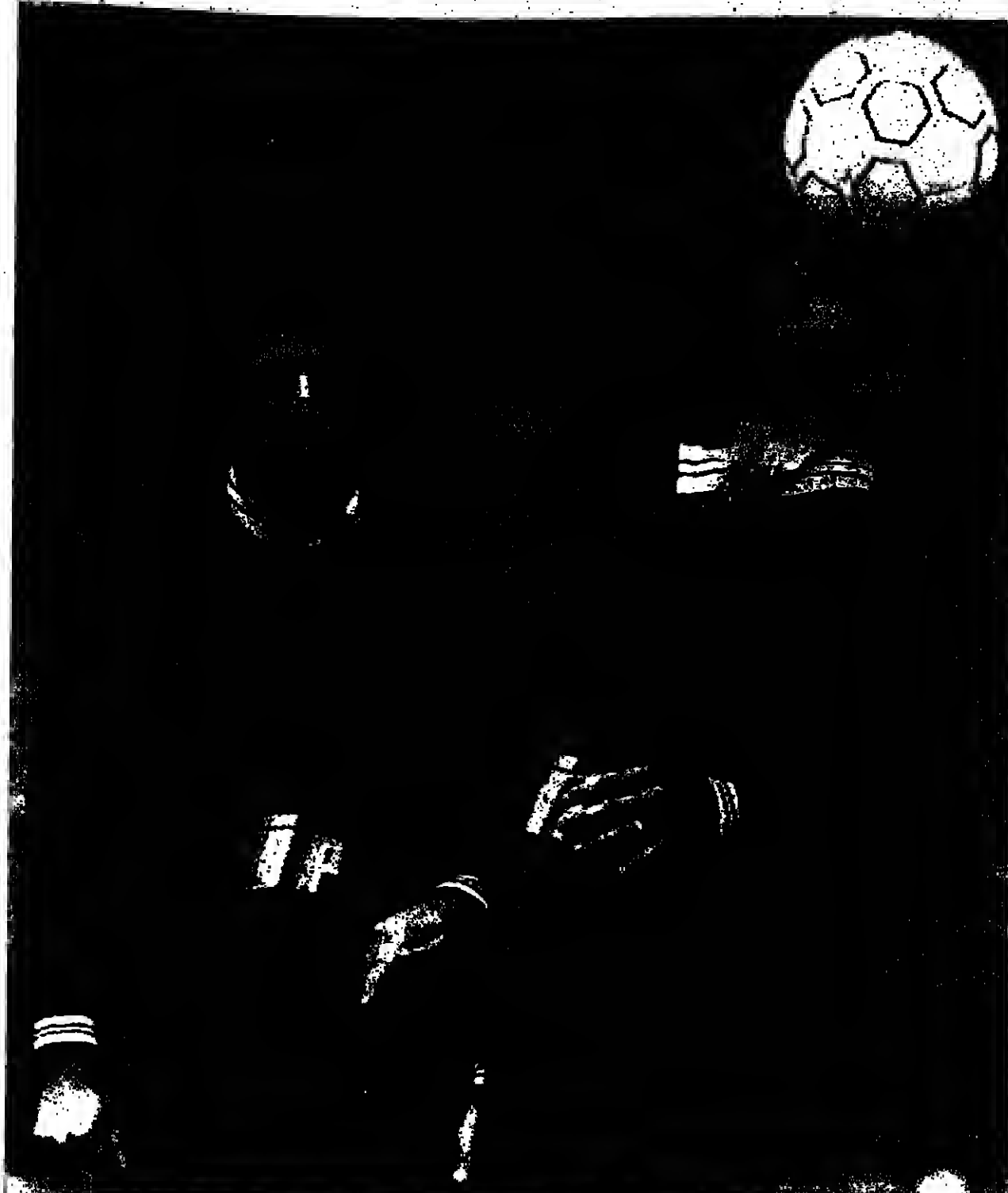
Zidane received good support from Didier Deschamps, the player once derided by Cantona as a near "water carrier" - while Arsenal's Emmanuel Petit provided an industrious foil for his more gifted colleagues.

On paper, defence is France's strongest suit. Lillian Thuram is arguably the best and quickest defender in Serie A, with Marcel Desailly not far behind. Which made it all the more surprising that the Scots carved them open on several occasions, pointing up a lack of pace in Laurent Blanc which could be more ruthlessly exploited by the South Americans and Africans.

For all that, Craig Brown cautioned yesterday against writing off France as potential world champions. "I still think they could be real contenders," the Scotland manager said. "The dress rehearsal is never the final production. They've got an excellent coach plus some magnificent players like Zidane, Deschamps and Desailly - it's just that they lack a cutting edge."

So why the jeers and whistles? "It may have been that they expected us to be cannon fodder because last time we were in France, in Paris eight years ago, we got beaten 3-0. Another reason is perhaps that the fans see club sides like Strasbourg beating Rangers and Liverpool without anyone in Jacquet's squad. So they expect the national team to wipe the floor with us."

The French cockerel may be carping rather than crowing right now. But with seven months to go, the precedents suggest there is still time for a goalscorer to emerge. There were, after all, barely four months left before the 1966 finals when England first took a chance on a certain Geoff Hurst.



Marseille's Fabrizio Ravanelli (right) and Ciro Ferrara, of Juventus, prepare for Italy's World Cup qualifying play-off second leg against Russia in Naples tomorrow. The first leg in Moscow ended 1-1. Photograph: Plinio Lepri/AP

## Signori blow for West Ham

The West Ham manager, Harry Redknapp, has pulled out of an ambitious bid to sign Lazio's Giuseppe Signori on loan - because the player's wage demands were too high.

Redknapp had hoped to land the Italian international striker, 31, on loan until the end of the season, but his personal terms and a loan fee of £200,000 scuppered the deal. Signori is believed to have wanted about £800,000 to spend the rest of the season at Upton Park, and Redknapp admitted that was too big a price to pay. However, he added: "He would have been a fantastic player for the club, there's no doubt about that."

Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, will travel to Santiago to watch Chile's centre-forward in action against Bolivia in a World Cup qualifier on Sunday. The 22-year-old has reportedly been priced at £12m by his Argentinian club, River Plate, but Ferguson said: "The fee for Sales is not something that concerns me at this moment. He is still

a young player with many good years ahead of him. I am going out there with an open mind, simply to have a look at him for myself in action."

United were relieved to hear yesterday that Gary Pallister, their England centre-half, may be back in action soon. A scan on the back injury that caused him to withdraw from the England squad to face Cameroon tomorrow showed no serious damage.

The Sunderland striker Craig Russell will complete a transfer to Manchester City if he passes a medical this morning. The wing-back Nicky Summerbee will move in the opposite direction - both players are valued at £1m.

Ipswich Town have paid £800,000 for the Bury striker David Johnson. The centre-back Chris Swales, valued at £200,000, has moved to Gillingham as part of the deal.

Blackburn Rovers are chasing Oldham Athletic's England Under-21 left-back, Carl Serrant, who was a target for Southampton last season.

Middlesbrough are hoping to sign the Manchester United winger Ben Thornley, who is also wanted by Huddersfield, for around £750,000.

Premier League clubs can expect to receive £100m from a three-year deal to screen matches overseas which was given the approval of club chairmen in London yesterday.

The deal has not yet been signed but a contract is likely to be finalised in the near future. The current deal, which was agreed in 1992, is worth just £9m per year. Yesterday's meeting approved a bid from Mark McCormack's TWI Group and the French television company, Canal Plus, in preference to a bid from CSI, the sports marketing company which currently holds the contract.

The new deal is in addition to the £740m television contract that the Premier League has signed until 2001 with BSkyB and the BBC for the rights to televise Premiership matches in this country.

- Rupert Metcalf and Alan Nixon

## Better news for McCarthy

Mick McCarthy, the Republic of Ireland manager, had some welcome good news yesterday: his veteran midfielder Ray Houghton came through his first training session of the week to clear up doubts over an injured ankle. The former Liverpool man can now expect to start tomorrow's World Cup play-off second leg against Belgium in Brussels.

"He has done everything that was asked of him and he is certainly available for selection," McCarthy said. The full-back Terry Phelan is out of contention, though, showing no improvement in the calf injury he collected during training on Tuesday. Blackburn's Jeff Keena will probably be recalled in place of the injured Denis Irwin at right-back, with Steve Staunton on the left.

Another man with injury problems is Cesare Maldini, Italy's coach, whose side meet Russia in Naples tomorrow. Christian Vieri is out and his understudy at centre-forward, Pierluigi Casiraghi, is not fully fit, which could mean a starting place for Fabrizio Ravanelli.

The Russian coach, Boris Ignatiev, also has problems. Two members of his squad failed to show up in Naples. "I don't know where [Valeriy] Yessopov and [Yevgeniy] Bushmanov have got to," he said. It later transpired that Yessopov was preparing for a knee operation, while Bushmanov's club, Torpedo Moscow, said he had not travelled to Italy because his airline ticket was not delivered in time for the squad's departure.

- Rupert Metcalf

## Buglione can burst net for Bloodvessel

Kevin Keegan and Ray Wilkins will be taking their Fulham side on a day trip to the Kent coast on Sunday for an FA Cup tie against a team with an eventful history in the competition.

Margate are making the most of their few days of fame prior to Sunday's FA Cup first-round tie against Fulham in the Kent seaside town. The players, the manager and club officials are becoming accustomed to the cameras of Sky TV, which will be broadcasting the match. The club's main sponsor, the bald, beer-bellied pop singer Buster Bloodvessel, is loudly celebrating his brief return to the limelight.

Strangely, for a 101-year-old club who are members of the Southern (now Dr Martens) League, this is Margate's first appearance in the FA Cup first round since 1972 - before some members of their current squad were born and before anyone had heard of Mr Bloodvessel's pop group, Bad Manners.

Margate reached the FA Cup first round for the first time in 1929 when they gained a notable 2-0 win at their Kent rivals, and members of the Third Division South, Gillingham. In 1972 they beat another Third Division side, Swansea, 1-0 at home. Another 1-0 win in the

second round at the Isthmian League outfit Walton & Hersham earned Margate the sort of third-round tie that every non-League club dreams of: at home to Tottenham Hotspur.

It is an occasion that Margate's secretary Ken Tomlinson, who has been watching the team for 51 years, remembers well. "Spurs travelled to Kent on the Friday and stayed the night in a hotel in Margate," he recalled this week. "They mixed with a lot of people in the town and made a big impression."

The following day - Saturday was always the football day then - we had a huge crowd at Hartsdown Park [their picturesque stadium]. The attendance figure we published was 8,500, because that was the police limit, but when we counted the gate money we realised we had 14,500 in.

"Spurs were only 1-0 up at half-time," Tomlinson added. "It was an even first half, but they scored five more in the second half." For the record, Tottenham's scorers in their 6-0 win were Martin Chivers with two, the late Cyril Knowles, John Pratt, Jimmy Pearce and Martin Peters. No one has scored since in the FA Cup proper at Hartsdown Park since.

The previous season, 1971-72, Margate suffered a far heavier FA Cup defeat. Drawn away to Bournemouth in the first round, they came up against a prolific striker who went on to play for Manchester United and Scotland. Ted McDougall scored nine goals, which remains an FA Cup

record, as hapless Margate were thrashed 11-0.

For Margate's goalkeeper, the former Brentford man Chic Brodie, who had also hit the headlines a year earlier when he was badly bitten by a dog during a game at Colchester, it was another embarrassing experience. For Bournemouth it was sweet revenge, though, for the last time they had faced Margate in the FA Cup they had been humiliated on their own ground.

In 1961 Margate had hammered Bournemouth 3-0 at Dean Court in the first round before going out to another Third Division side, Notts County. "That was the best Margate team I've seen," Tomlinson claimed.

Their much-respected manager then was Almer Hall, who was in charge at Hartsdown Park for 21 years. An inside-forward with Tottenham and West Ham, his playing career was interrupted by the Second World War. He arrived at Margate as player-manager in 1949 and did not relinquish control of the team until 1970.

Margate have reached the third round of the Cup only twice: their encounter with Tottenham described above, and in 1935-36. That was their second season as a nursery club for Arsenal. A former Gunners player, Jack Ramsey, was their manager, and they could borrow promising young and other fringe players from Highbury. Arsenal paid 60 per cent of the wages of these loaned players, and they arranged for the pitch at Hartsdown Park to be reduced to exactly the same size as Highbury's. Arsenal's first-team squad regularly trained on it.

With Reg Lewis, who scored the Gunners' goals in their 2-0 win over Liverpool in the 1950 FA Cup final, and Jack Lambert, who had played in the 1930 and '32 finals for Arsenal, in their side, Margate beat Queen's Park Rangers 3-1 in the first round in 1935. But it was a local lad who was the hero of their second-round win over Crystal Palace. Jimmy Evans scored a hat-trick in Margate's 3-0 triumph. "He was a printer at Thanet Press in the town," Tomlinson remembered. "He died only two years ago."

On Sunday, the locals packed in to the now-6,000 capacity Hartsdown Park, and the neutrals watching on television, will be looking for a new hero who can perhaps emulate Evans, or at least score one goal, against Ray Wilkins' Fulham side.

It could be Martin Buglione, who was sold to St Johnstone for a healthy fee in 1992 but has since returned to Kent. It could be Mark Munday or Paul Lamb, who, along with goalkeeper Lee Turner, played for Gravesend & Northfleet in the third round of the Cup at Aston Villa in January last year.

Under the experienced management of Chris Kinneer, who took Dover into the GM Vauxhall Conference, Margate will be well prepared. It could be their day.

- Rupert Cornwell

## Advantage Greece as England falter late on

Greece Under-21 .....2  
England Under-21 .....0

Traianos Dellas scored one goal and Nikos Liberopoulos added another as England's Under-21 side succumbed to two late goals to their Greek counterparts in a European Under-21 Championship play-off first-leg in Iraklion, Crete, yesterday.

Dellas opened the scoring from a free-kick from outside the area, which took a wicked deflection, in the 74th minute. Liberopoulos made it 2-0 with a twice-taken penalty kick, conceded by goalkeeper Richard Wright, in injury time. Moments earlier John Curtis, the Manchester United defender, had been sent off after being shown his second yellow card. Peter Taylor's England

team, who had conceded only one goal in their eight group matches, had been under severe pressure for much of the match. The second leg is at Norwich on 17 December.

GRECE UNDER-21: S. Liberopoulos, L. Lelis (Goalkeeper), T. Dellas, C. Dimitrakis, D. Lelis, G. Lelis, M. Liberopoulos, K. Liberopoulos, N. Liberopoulos, S. Liberopoulos. ENGLAND UNDER-21: Wright (Goalkeeper), S. Liberopoulos, L. Lelis (Goalkeeper), T. Dellas, C. Dimitrakis, D. Lelis, G. Lelis, M. Liberopoulos, K. Liberopoulos, N. Liberopoulos, S. Liberopoulos. Referee: R. Dyer, 77, Darnley (Southampton) for Haring, 78, Referee: R. Dyer (Southampton).

## Wilkinson wary of Russia

Howard Wilkinson believes his squad of England youngsters could see their European dreams upstaged by Russia when the countries' respective Under-18 sides meet at Crewe tonight.

The England coach is worried that his highly paid young players could be surprised by a team playing for their financial futures.

Wilkinson said: "Most of them see football as a way out.

The face of Moscow we saw when we played there recently certainly didn't look like the land of milk and honey to us.

"The team we played against out there had some outstanding players. They were very physical but also flexible and quite agile."

The hosts need to win to ensure they go through to a play-off against France to qualify for the European Championships.

## BASEBALL

### Winter heralds major league madness

Sport can be strange and unpredictable. It can be eccentric and bizarre. Rarely though does it descend to the levels of certifiable insanity being plucked by Major League Baseball.

Imagine Arsenal giving Arsene Wenger his marching orders, or Manchester United announcing that Roy Keane, Ryan Giggs, Paul Scholes, Dennis Irwin, Andy Cole et al had to be sold. That is what is happening as America's national pastime goes into the winter break.

Last week Davey Johnson of the Baltimore Orioles was named the American League manager of the year, after a 98-64 regular season in which

the Orioles led their division throughout. Within three hours Johnson had been sacked, the third manager to suffer that fate at the hands of the Os owner, Peter Angelos, in four years.

Ostensibly, the reason was a row over a charity donation. In truth it was Angelos' refusal to countenance anyone with a mind of their own. So he jettisoned Johnson, owner of the best career record of any active major league manager.

But the 1997 world champions, the Florida Marlins, are behaving equally weirdly. They have put the whole team up for sale. This time the reason is salary costs, even though

Martins' owner, Wayne Huizenga, of Blockbuster Video fame, is one of the richest men in America. The team's best hitter, Moises Alou, has already been traded. "The fans won't like it," said a spokesman, "but they're all available."

Baseball has not yet gone completely mad. Yesterday Ken Griffey Jr, the Seattle Mariners outfielder generally reckoned the best all-round player in the game, was unanimously voted AL's Most Valuable Player on the basis of his 56 home runs and 147 RBIs. Which means the Mariners will probably get rid of him.

- Rupert Cornwell

## RUGBY UNION

### Botham joins Cardiff

Liam Botham, son of former England cricketer Ian, has joined the Welsh club holders Cardiff after being freed by West Hartlepool.

The 20-year-old centre, who chose rugby rather than following in his father's cricketing footsteps, is determined to succeed at the Arms Park. "I am totally committed to them," he said.

"They have opened my eyes to what professional rugby is all about."

Botham first got his chance with Cardiff after Peter Thomas, their millionaire benefactor, met his father as they followed the European team

around at the Ryder Cup in Valderrama.

Botham played two friendly matches which persuaded Terry Holmes, the club coach, to give him a permanent deal.

The Cardiff manager, Peter Manning, said: "He has a good attitude and is a very determined, competitive person who wants to make it as a professional rugby player."

Aberavon have signed the New Zealand-born No 8 Guy Phillips from Bridgend. Phillips, 22, son of the Bridgend coach, John Phillips, was released by his father as Bridgend had exceeded their quota of overseas players.

## Wilkie's silicone mask is the new face of swimming

Britain's swimmers are trying out a revolutionary silicone mask in their pursuit of world and Olympic medals.

The mask, an idea of former Olympic gold medalist David Wilkie, combines the traditional swimming cap and goggles and has a bold Union Jack across the top of the head.

The mask (right), modelled by Karen Pickering and Graham Smith, will be marketed by Speedo. "It is mainly for the competitive swimmer but there is no reason why it shouldn't be worn by the recreational swimmer as well," Wilkie said.

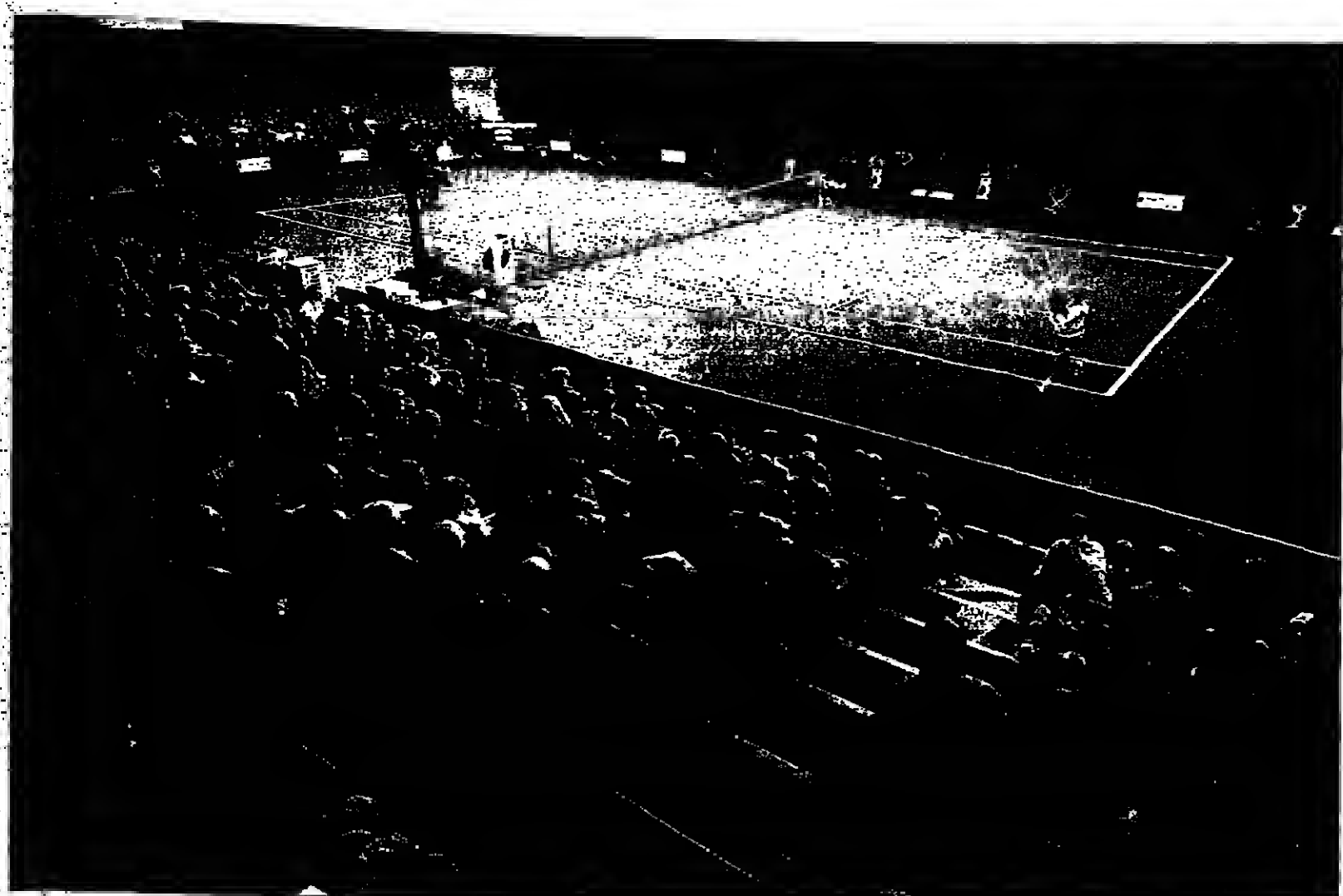
Wilkie, who won silver in Munich in 1972 and gold at Montreal four years later, was the first male swimmer to wear separate swim cap and goggles in international competition.

But results show that the mask reduces drag around the eyes by up to 53 per cent. "Swimmers are getting faster all the time," Wilkie said. "In my breaststroke events, times have improved by four seconds over 20 years and some events still more."

"We have shaved our heads and we have shaved body hair and you wonder how much more can be done."







Tim Henman plays a backhand on his way to victory over Alan Mackin in front of a packed crowd at Telford yesterday. Photograph: Peter Jay

## Telford ready for life after Henman

Tim Henman says this week will be his last appearance at the National Tennis Championships at Telford, while the sponsors are said to be reviewing their involvement. However, as Adam Szreter discovered, the championships are in good health.

The car park at the superbly-appointed International Centre in Telford is packed every day this week and schoolchildren pour in by the coachload. Entrance to the national tennis championships is free for them, which it is hoped will encourage any budding Tim Henmans to take

up the sport. There are also a variety of tennis-related activities to keep them entertained should the matches themselves fail to do so: a "Batak" wall to test their reactions; a tennis "factory" where they can play a variety of games; and a serveage where they can measure the speed of their serves.

The tournament itself can seem almost incidental, hot all eyes were focused briefly on Henman yesterday morning as he indulged in a gentle 40-minute work-out on Centre Court, seeing off the promising 16-year-old Scot Alan Mackin 6-0, 6-3. But it is Henman's decision not to return next year, added to Greg Rusedski's absence this year, that has put something of a dampener on proceedings.

Cathy Sabin organises coaching clinics and all manner of tennis and sports seminars that go to make the championships more of a tennis conference than a tournament. "Obviously the Greg and Tim thing has been a real plus," she said. "The kids know who they want to see when they come now and we haven't had to push to sell the tickets or fill the clinics."

"I am sad that Tim won't be here next year. The children will miss him as they've been so desperate to see him. He's very charismatic and they remember him sitting down and talking to them last year. But people will come anyway because it's now an established event."

## Rusedski's request made redundant by injury

Greg Rusedski's ATP Tour World Championship campaign ended prematurely yesterday when a hamstring injury prevented the British No 1 from playing his concluding round-robin match against Spain's Carlos Moya. As John Roberts in Hannover, explains, one nagging point remained.

The prognosis on Greg Rusedski's hamstring rendered the scheduling of his round-robin match against Carlos Moya hypothetical, so the question became one of principle—would Boris Becker or Pete Sampras, in similar circumstances, have been granted the 24 hours' respite Rusedski was denied?

Neither Rusedski nor Tony Pickard, his coach, saw any sense in belabouring the point. "It's a strange situation, let's put it that way," Pickard said, "but, having been around a fairly long time, I've experienced other strange situations."

Rusedski requested the switch in his schedule after losing to Pete Sampras on Wednesday, but the ATP Tour refused to delay his match with Moya until today, when Sampras is due to play Australia's Pat Rafter, the United States Open champion, on prime time for German television. Rafter defeated Rusedski in his opening match. "It's all to do with keeping the interest alive for everybody," an ATP Tour spokesman said.

A visit to hospital yesterday confirmed that Rusedski would not be able to continue. Austria's Thomas Muster, the alternate, stepped in to play Moya. "I asked for a Friday start, but unfortunately that didn't happen," Rusedski said. "But in retrospect, after listening to the doctor here at the tournament and the doctor at the hospital today, it didn't really make much of a difference in my case."

## SPORTING DIGEST

**Basketball**  
NBA: Boston 88 Denver 86; Atlanta 89 Indiana 86; Sacramento 115 Orlando 88; New York 93 Toronto 76; Washington 90 Chicago 85; Philadelphia 78 Houston 70; Phoenix 103 Milwaukee 92; Utah 56 Vancouver 50; Detroit 102 Golden State 71.

**Billiards**  
NILEY NORTON OPEN (Pittsburgh): N. Norton 5-0 P. Norton (5-0); P. Norton 5-0 N. Norton (5-0).

**Bowls**  
EUROPEAN INDOOR TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP (London): First round: M. Williams 5-0 J. Williams; J. Williams 5-0 M. Williams; J. Williams 5-0 M. Williams; J. Williams 5-0 M. Williams.

**Baseball**  
Lexus: L. Lewis 1-0 M. Lewis; M. Lewis 1-0 L. Lewis; M. Lewis 1-0 L. Lewis; M. Lewis 1-0 L. Lewis.

**Cricket**  
Northamptonshire have appointed Kevin Curran as their captain for next season. In succession to Rob Bailey.

**Drugs in sport**  
Australia's Olympic Committee banned the biobath competitor

**Football**  
Nathan Whetton, 21, for two years yesterday after finding him guilty of turning a positive test for the anabolic steroid stanozolol.

**Baseball**  
The Italian Serie A club Sampdoria have hired Vladimir Boskov for his second spell as coach.

**Baseball**  
Ukraine's football federation has banned the midfielder Sergei Nebosytov from all football for two years for failing a drugs test after the first leg of the World Cup play-off against Croatia. The Dnipropetrovsk player has also been given a lifetime ban from the Ukrainian League.

**Baseball**  
EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP (London): First round: M. Williams 5-0 J. Williams; J. Williams 5-0 M. Williams; J. Williams 5-0 M. Williams; J. Williams 5-0 M. Williams.

**Baseball**  
Lexus: L. Lewis 1-0 M. Lewis; M. Lewis 1-0 L. Lewis; M. Lewis 1-0 L. Lewis; M. Lewis 1-0 L. Lewis.

**Cricket**  
Northamptonshire have appointed Kevin Curran as their captain for next season. In succession to Rob Bailey.

**Drugs in sport**  
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**Ice hockey**  
Newcastle Cobras have named Dale Lambert, the 35-year-old Canadian defenceman, as their new head coach.

**Go**  
TAKESHI MASTERS (Tokyo, Japan): First round: M. Williams 5-0 J. Williams; J. Williams 5-0 M. Williams; J. Williams 5-0 M. Williams; J. Williams 5-0 M. Williams.

**Snooker**  
LIVERPOOL VICTORIA UK CHAMPIONSHIP (Liverpool): First round: M. Williams 5-0 J. Williams; J. Williams 5-0 M. Williams; J. Williams 5-0 M. Williams; J. Williams 5-0 M. Williams.

**Squash**  
MEN'S WORLD OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP (London): First round: M. Williams 5-0 J. Williams; J. Williams 5-0 M. Williams; J. Williams 5-0 M. Williams; J. Williams 5-0 M. Williams.

## RUGBY LEAGUE / GREAT BRITAIN v AUSTRALIA

### Morley's slow train left on the sidelines

If Great Britain finish the job in the third Test at Eland Road on Sunday, it will, says Dave Hadfield, herald the coming of age of Adrian Morley.

The Leeds second row started the series against Australia as a fringe figure following mixed fortunes in last year's tour to the South Pacific, but his importance to Great Britain has steadily increased.

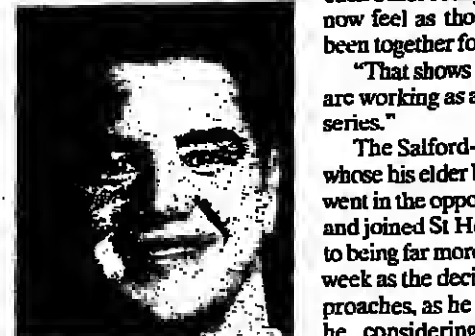
Morley was a substitute at Wembley, impressing with his sheer forcefulness when he came into the action, and last week at Old Trafford he started a Test for the first time, playing a full part in Britain's forward domination.

Morley had reason to fear his international career had ended before it had properly begun. His first Test appearance, as a substitute in the first Test in New Zealand last year, was a disaster, with a flash of indiscipline effectively losing the match.

"It was the best day of my life and the worst all rolled into one. I didn't know whether I'd ever get another chance, although I got back into the squad again for the third Test."

Even then Morley, at 20, could have been written off. Fortunately, two former Great Britain second rows of rare distinction had more faith in him than that.

The Great Britain manager, Phil Lowe, played in the Great Britain team that last beat Australia in a series in 1970 and is a long time admirer, who believes Morley has the ability to become the best of his generation in his old position, while the



Morley: Has size, speed and aggression

of a problem for me in the past but I worked on that," he said.

"Last Saturday I thought we all kept our cool very well. When we put pressure on the Australians, they couldn't handle it and it was their discipline that started going."

"It was a completely different feeling from the previous week. We wanted to win more than they did. A few people had slugged us off during the week and we wanted to prove them wrong."

"But we know it is going to be twice as hard this week."

That is something the British forwards have been reminding themselves of all week, but there is no denying that some of the mystique of

## Clyde recovers to face unchanged Britain

Australia have made two changes in their side for the third Test, while Andy Goodway has named an unchanged Great Britain line-up.

The Australian coach, John Lang, has been able to bring in his most experienced forward, Bradley Clyde, for the first time in the series. Clyde has recovered from a calf injury and takes the place of Matt Adamson in the second row, the Penrith forward dropping to substitute.

Ryan Girdler is back after missing the second Test through injury and a reshuffle to accommodate him as centre and goal-kicker sees Brett Mullins move to the wing and Ken Nagas to the bench.

However, there are still lingering fitness doubts about Girdler and Mullins, who came off the field at Old Trafford with a burst blood vessel in his leg.

Goodway has decided against starting the match with the Wigan second row Simon Haughton at Eland Road on Sunday, reasoning

that he can make a greater impact from the bench.

The Great Britain coach has decided against including another Wigan forward. Mick Cassidy, among the substitutes, where he could cover for the hooker, James Lowes, who has had a bout of flu.

The Australians say they have now been given fair warning about the capabilities of Goodway's line-up.

"We probably underestimated them a bit in the second Test," said their captain, Laurie Daley. "They came out a lot hungrier than we were prepared for. They knuckled down and ground out the victory while we were looking for the knock-out punch all the time and it didn't happen for us."

Lang said that he is not labouring the issue of the long gap since Great Britain last beat Australia in the Test series.

"I don't think we could have any more desire to win," he said.

— Dave Hadfield

**TENNIS**  
ATP TOUR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (London): First round: M. Williams 5-0 J. Williams; J. Williams 5-0 M. Williams; J. Williams 5-0 M. Williams; J. Williams 5-0 M. Williams.

**Baseball**  
Lexus: L. Lewis 1-0 M. Lewis; M. Lewis 1-0 L. Lewis; M. Lewis 1-0 L. Lewis; M. Lewis 1-0 L. Lewis.

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**Drugs in sport**  
Australia's Olympic Committee banned the biobath competitor

**ON WEDNESDAY IT WAS THEM.**

Draw date: 22/11/97. The winning numbers: 3, 6, 8, 27, 36, 45. Bonus number: 47.

Total Sales: £41,572,632. Prize Fund: £27,700,707 (45% of ticket sales plus £3,082,996 from Saturday's rollover jackpot).

CATEGORY	NO OF WINNERS	PRIZE PER WINNER	TOTAL EACH TIER
Match 8 (Jackpot)	2	£7,395,490	£14,770,980
Match 5 plus bonus ball	11	£1,169,104	£12,860,144
Match 5	885	£1,284	£1,138,380
Match 3	45,498	£52	£2,369,740
Match 2	767,928	£10	£7,679,280
TOTALS	814,303		£27,859,504

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Brookage (prices rounded down to nearest £1): £41,203.

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